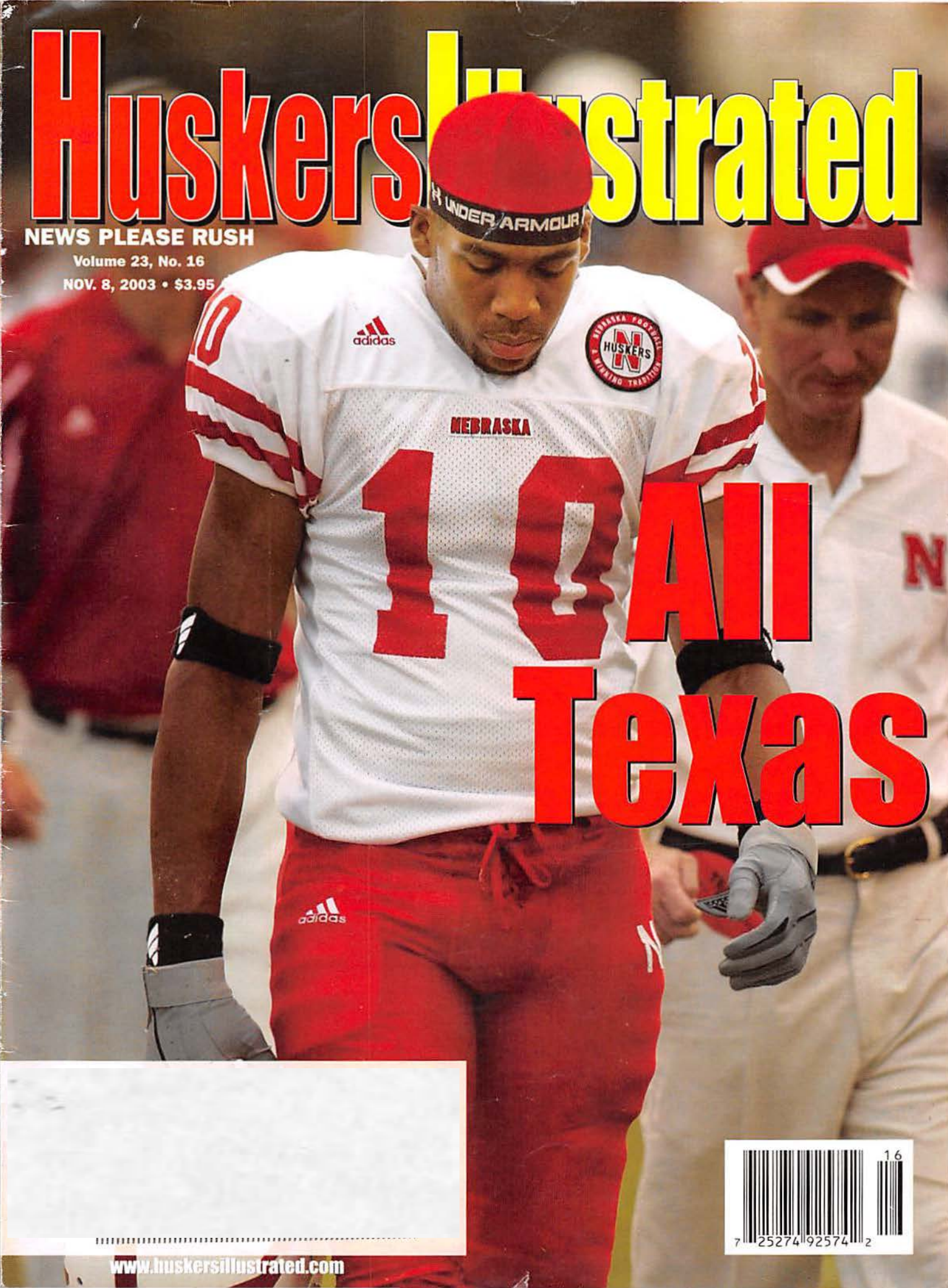
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NOV. 8, 2003 • $3.95
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FROM THE EDITOR

Austin Power

Huskers powerless as Longhorns show what they can do

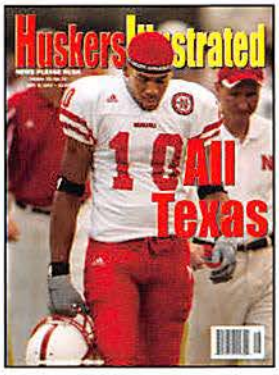
Brian HILL

A MID-WEEK CALLER asked how Texas could be favored to beat Nebraska. After all, he reasoned, the Huskers had a better record and were ranked higher in the polls. Why were the Longhorns favored by about a touchdown?

My reply was something about Texas having great talent and playing at home.

The comeback was that Texas lost at home earlier in the season to Arkansas and was embarrassed by 52 points by Oklahoma.

I told him that Oklahoma was really, really good and that I had no explanation for Texas losing to Arkansas. Sometimes, things like that just happen, especially in modern-day college football.



I went on to say that Texas was coming off back-to-back 11-win seasons and had been ranked No. 5 in the preseason because of its returning cast.

I had to go and told the caller I thought Nebraska had a decent chance to win — I didn't think it would be considered a big upset — in Austin.

I knew it wouldn't be easy, but I certainly didn't expect the wheels to fall off the way they did. The offense couldn't move the ball, the defense couldn't stop Texas, and the special teams contributed to the downfall as well. The Longhorns played well, but it was hard to tell how well, as the Huskers self-destructed.

The most telling statistic was Nebraska's inability to run the football. The Huskers, who were ranked fourth in the nation in rushing offense, were limited to 53 yards on the ground by Texas, which ranked 76th in rushing defense entering the game.

Jammal Lord, Nebraska's leading rusher who had run for 234 yards against the Longhorns a year earlier in Lincoln, finished with 21 carries for a net of 22 yards. He was sacked five times.

Lord had a rough day, but so did every one else in red. Some were probably clamoring for Coach Frank Solich to put in freshman Joe Dailey, but that wouldn't have made the blocking and tackling any better. And there was at least a glimmer of hope of a comeback until Cedric Benson took over, rushing for 107 of his 174 yards and two touchdowns in the fourth quarter.

Dailey understands the situation. The supportive relationship he and Lord have established is the subject of our feature story in this edition of Huskers Illustrated. Dailey's friend, sophomore I-back Cory Ross, is the subject of this week's player profile.

This installment of "Where Are They Now" features Bill Kosch, a two-time All-Big Eight safety on Coach Bob Devaney's championship teams. Kosch shared the Husker record for pass interceptions in a season, which Josh Bullocks broke when he picked off his eighth pass early in the fourth quarter against Texas.

The record-setting interception led to Lord's nice 48-yard touchdown pass to Matt Herian that cut the margin to 17-7 with 11:58 remaining. Was it possible? Could the Huskers make an amazing comeback after having everything in the world go wrong?

Nope. After that, it was all Texas. ■

ON THE COVER

A disappointed Mark LeFlore walks off the field with his head down after Nebraska's 31-7 loss to Texas in Austin. *Photo by Derek Lippincott.*

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 16

Huskers Illustrated

www.huskersillustrated.com

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NATIONAL DISTRIBUTOR
G Associates Inc.

Huskers Illustrated (ISSN 0279-3474) is published monthly January through May and August, bi-monthly June/July and weekly September through mid-December except open dates. Single issue cost $3.95 (yearbook $7.95); subscription rate for one year (18 issues) is $48.95. First Class postage is available for an additional charge of $18.00 per year. Foreign postage $34.00.

Huskers Illustrated is published by Landmark Publications Inc., 3210 NW 3rd St., Lincoln, NE 68521-3213. Periodicals postage paid at Lincoln, Neb., and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to ***Huskers Illustrated***, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, NE 68501-3222.

Address all editorial-related correspondence to ***Huskers Illustrated***, 3210 NW 3rd St., Lincoln, NE 68521-3213.

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Huskers Illustrated

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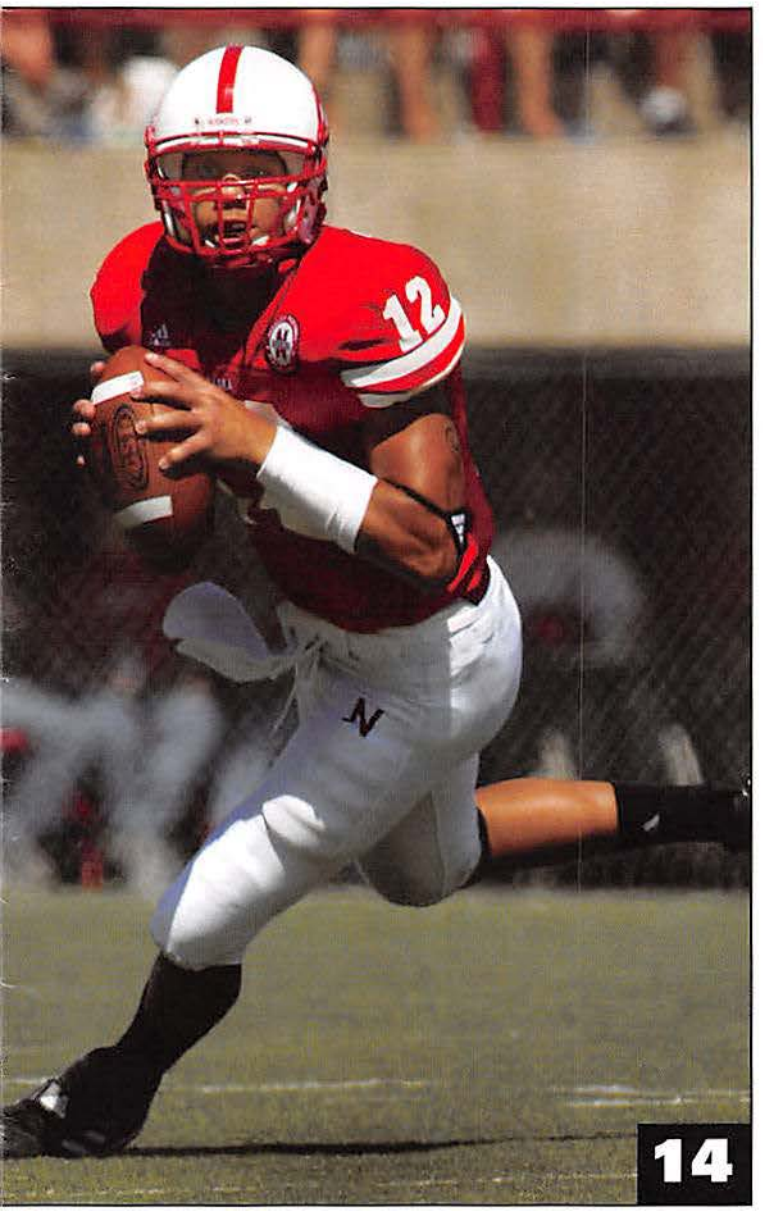
NOV. 8, 2003 • VOLUME 23, NO. 16



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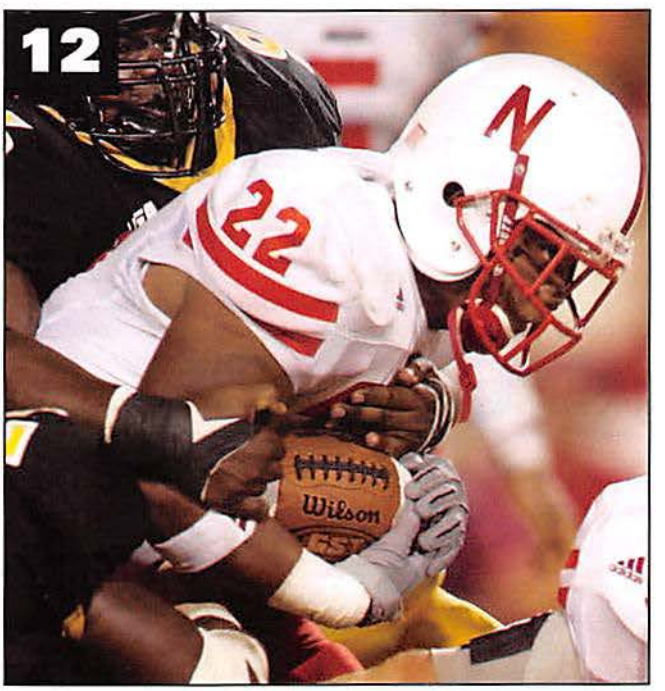

14 SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIP

Freshman quarterback Joe Dailey (above) says senior Jammal Lord has helped him and encouraged him to make the most of his opportunities. *By Mike Babcock*

NEXT ISSUE

The Kansas review/Kansas State preview edition will be mailed Nov. 10. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.

Talent 'Out There'

Recruiting junior colleges is like turning to the "free-agent market" in professional sports, Nebraska recruiting coordinator Scott Downing says. "You're looking for immediate help."

That's what Darren DeLone was hoping to provide when he picked the Cornhuskers following two years at Mount San Antonio Community College in Walnut, Calif.

The 6-foot-5, 312-pound tackle was the first junior college offensive lineman Nebraska had recruited since the early 1970s, and he was expected to have an immediate impact.

He probably would have had one, too, had his arrival not been delayed.

Missing the first few days of preseason practice put him behind. Plus, he was out of shape when he arrived in Lincoln, weighing 335 pounds. "I'm not going to lie," he says of his condition.

Now, "I feel in the best shape I've ever been in my life. I feel so quick, so agile."

He's also stronger than when he reported, a tribute to the Cornhuskers' weight room. "This is the best weight program I've seen in my life," he says.

"In my juco, I never lifted weights. I never touched a weight. I came out here, I felt muscles I never felt. I'm sore in places I've never been sore before.

"Once I get to my stage, my strongest and my fastest, I don't think anything can stop me."

By next season, "I should be dominating," he says.

Offensive coordinator and line coach Barney Cotton would like to see DeLone dominating by the end of this season. "He's very athletic and talented," says Cotton.

"He's an excellent puller. He can scoot. I mean, he can really run."

He also can dunk a basketball two-handed, a rare ability for someone his size.

Even more remarkable is that DeLone didn't start playing in the offensive line until the third game of his sophomore season at Mount San Antonio. He had been a starting defensive tackle but was asked to move to offense after a knee injury sidelined one of the offensive tackles.

"The coaches saw I was quick on my feet," he says. "They asked me would I care if I moved. I never played offensive tackle in my life. I was pretty mad. But I said I'd do it for the team."

Scott Bruhn

Darren DeLone was one of three junior college transfers in the 2003 recruiting class.

During his high school career, DeLone played defensive end, tight end and, occasionally, fullback, as well as quarterback when he was younger, before he hit a growth spurt.

Despite his initial reluctance to move to offensive tackle, he quickly warmed to the position and showed he had an aptitude for it. "Man, it was fun," he says. "I was dominating. It seemed like everything was so slow but I was moving fast, on my pulls, everything. It really worked out."

Because Mount San Antonio's offense was pass-oriented, DeLone's strength was as a pass blocker when he arrived at Nebraska. "I'm not going to say I'm the best pass blocker, but I'm pretty good," he says. "That's one of the things I didn't have to work on when I came here."

Run blocking was a different matter, although he's a fast learner, he says, and he comes from an organized, goal-oriented family. To develop as a run blocker, he's had to work on "reading defenses, knowing the gap to stay in and just to stay low," to drive the defender.

"Run blocking is working with your legs," he says. "You need leg muscle. When I got here, legs were one of the main concerns. I saw that with the squats, with the cleans. Man, it's amazing how the weight room helped me in practice. I've seen a major impact in what the weights have done for me.

"My driving off the ball, just driving people, hey, it works. It's a big difference."

By mid-October, DeLone was seeing more action. "We need to get playing time for Darren this year," Cotton said the week of the Texas A&M game. "Missing part of training camp was a setback. But each week, he gets better, and each week, I probably feel more comfortable with him in the game."

DeLone was among three junior college transfers in the 2003 recruiting class. The others, cornerback Donald DeFrand and defensive end Wali Muhammad have both been hampered by injuries.

Muhammad wasn't able to practice until early October.

The foundation of the program will continue to be built with high school recruits, "who are here for four or five years and have grown up in the program," says Downing."But I think you want to be well aware of what kind of talent is out there (in junior colleges). We've obviously had some very, very good junior college players come in and play for us."

Demorrio Williams is a prime example. And DeLone is headed in that direction, too. ■

THINKING INSIDE THE BOX

Nebraska's offense has had to deal with defenses loading up the "box" in recent seasons and that isn't going to change, according to Coach Frank Solich. Regardless of what the Cornhuskers do offensively, "people won't get out of the box," he says. "They're going to be in the box.

"Everybody has a way to put people in the box, and we're going to have to prove every week that we can throw the ball in order to get them out of the box."

In general terms, the imaginary "box" is defined by the tight end and tackle, and extending 5 or 6 yards behind the line of scrimmage. Those who line up in that area are in the "box." A base defense might include only seven in the box, linemen and linebackers, with four in the secondary.

Opponents have regularly put eight defenders in the "box," and sometimes more in an effort to stop Nebraska's trademark running game. Passing is one way to counter such stacking in the "box."

"But the thing that you don't want to do is say, 'Well, they're in the box, let's throw it,' because they'll be in the box all game long. You can still throw it all game long and you'll have nothing but throws and no runs," says Solich. "You've got to have ways of getting to people in the box.

"That's the thing, I think, that frustrates me the most, when I hear announcers or someone say, 'Hey, they've got the extra guy in the box.' Everybody knows it. But you can account for the extra guy sometimes. You want to block the guys that are critical to the point of attack."

If defenders "in the play area" can be blocked, "you can get at least 5 or 6 (yards) and then still maybe break a long one," Solich says. "We do it with formations. We do it with motion . . . with our wide receivers. We do it by getting in one-back (sets) and letting our quarterback be the ball carrier and letting the I-back or fullback, whoever is in the game in that one-back set, be the extra blocker.

"So there are ways to move the football with the extra man in the box."

SPEAKING OF BOXES

Prior to the Missouri game, defensive coordinator Bo Pelini was asked if Nebraska's plan for Tigers quarterback Brad Smith might include a "spy," someone assigned only to him.

"I've heard that before," Pelini replied. "I've never actually seen it done. It's not like you're playing basketball and you can play a box-and-one. I mean, I've heard that before, and I've been around a lot of football. But I've never actually seen a guy mirror a quarterback for a whole game.

"Somebody can show me that film. I'd like to see it."

Next question. ■

QUICK HITS

What's Happening In Nebraska Athletics?

JUCO OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

How unique is Darren DeLone? Well, the last offensive linemen Nebraska recruited from junior college were in 1970, as Coach Bob Devaney set about restructuring his offense in the wake of 6-4 seasons in 1967 and 1968. Assistant Tom Osborne played a key role in the re-design.

Darren DeLone

The Cornhuskers looked for some immediate help from junior colleges, recruiting several transfers in 1969 and 1970, including Bob Newton, Dick Rupert, Keith Wortman and Carl Johnson.

Newton earned consensus All-America recognition as a senior on the 1970 national championship team, while Rupert and Johnson were first-team all-conference selections in 1971.

Newton and Wortman both went on to play 10 seasons in the NFL.

Among the other junior college recruits who contributed to the back-to-back national championships were split ends Woody Cox and Dale Didur and linebackers Bob Terrio and Bill Sloey.

Because of his increased responsibility with the offense during that time, Osborne, the receivers coach, also began working more closely with the quarterbacks.

DOUBLE DUTY

Defensive end Titus Adams lined up at tight end for the first time against Texas A&M, on the play that produced a David Horne touchdown. But Adams had been practicing in Nebraska's short-yardage, goal-line sets "since training camp," says offensive coordinator Barney Cotton.

"Why him? He's very athletic. He's got good explosiveness. He does a real good job of cutting off guys on the back side. He's a much bigger body than anybody we have at tight end. He gives us a 280-pound tight end, where Phil Peetz is our biggest tight end . . . about 245 to 250."

Titus Adams

In addition, Adams has "decent hands," says Cotton, and he moves well.

The sophomore from Omaha could become the Cornhuskers' version of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Warren Sapp, except that he's certainly not the loudmouth Sapp is.

Cotton says he has often joked with defensive linemen, including Ryon Bingham and Patrick Kabongo, about coming over to the offensive side of the ball, telling them they would make good offensive linemen. "We've got good defensive linemen here," he says. The talk "is all in good nature.

"I talk to those guys probably more in stretching than my guys."

The defense also has benefited from Adams' versatility and athleticism. He has played defensive tackle and nose tackle in addition to end, "not only in base but in nickel," says Pelini.

"He's a guy that can do a lot of things. We've asked him to do a lot."

As for Adams spending practice time with the offense, "it doesn't interfere with what he does on defense," Pelini says. "They take him when it's necessary to get it done."

NUMBER PLEASE

Prior to the Iowa State game, Cotton was asked about the problems posed by Iowa State's defense. "They've got a couple of good defensive linemen," he said, looking at a depth chart in front of him.

The depth chart was Nebraska's, however, not Iowa State's.

"I don't know names, No. 92," said Cotton. "What's No. 92's name?"

No. 92 was Jordan Carstens, "a very fine defensive tackle," Cotton said. "I know that 92 really sticks out in our minds as a staff as being a guy that makes things happen for them up front."

That wasn't the first time Cotton had referred to an opposing player by his number rather than his name. And, he has assured reporters, it won't be the last.

UNINTENTIONAL

The fans cheered as Jammal Lord ran off the field and Joe Dailey, his replacement, ran on early in the fourth quarter of the Texas A&M game. Lord had taken the first snap of the series and it appeared that the coaches had left him in so that fans could acknowledge his play.

That wasn't the case, however, according to Cotton. "Actually, Joe wasn't quite ready to go in," he said. "That's the only reason Jammal was in on that (first) play. We wanted to put Joe in. I can't remember why he wasn't ready at that point. But there was no preconceived idea behind it." ■

He Loved Playing

Grixby didn't shy away from contact, regardless of the size of the opponent

Mike BABCOCK

AS FIRST IMPRESSIONS GO, DeAntae Grixby couldn't have done much better. Former defensive coordinator Charlie McBride was immediately taken by his toughness.

McBride identified Grixby as a young player to watch, after seeing him for the first time in the spring of 1999. Grixby, a member of the 1998 recruiting class, had delayed his enrollment because of a shoulder injury suffered in the Nebraska high school Shrine Bowl all-star game.

Chosen as the South team's most valuable player, he had come to Nebraska as an I-back. And based on that first impression, he was going to be a good one, according to McBride. If that didn't work out, however, he could move to the defensive side of the ball. He was tough enough.

The 5-foot-8, 200-pound Grixby wouldn't shy away from contact, regardless of his size. He would take on rush end Kyle Vanden Bosch, even though it was hardly a favorable matchup. Such fearlessness was a factor in his being sidelined in short order that spring by a torn right ACL.

The knee injury would set the tone for Grixby's time at Nebraska. Some careers can be measured statistically. His is measured in injuries: the torn ACL, a toe injury with which he played as a freshman, a hernia, two shoulder surgeries, cracked ribs and two ankle injuries.

DeAntae Grixby appeared in two games this season.

He suffered the cracked ribs in the opening game of his sophomore season but returned to see action in nine games. The first ankle injury kept him out of the first five games this season. And the second, which occurred on the final play of a practice before the Iowa State game, ended his career.

He had been blocking on a kickoff return when the left ankle rolled.

Grixby had been practicing "for a couple of weeks," Coach Frank Solich said the day of the injury, and he had appeared in two games, on special teams as well as at fullback.

He made a crucial block on David Horne's 5-yard touchdown run at Missouri.

Though he has always considered himself an I-back, Grixby agreed to move to fullback last season to increase his chances of seeing action, and he was "getting things done for us," said Solich.

He went into fall camp as a No. 2 fullback behind Judd Davies, sharing with Steve Kriewald.

He was "an excellent runner from that spot, with great toughness," Solich said. However, "as things were fitting on that end of it, they were not fitting on staying healthy. It's been very tough on him. It's really tough on all of us because we've seen what DeAntae has been through.

"I know he's really down right now."

Grixby told reporters the next day that he had cried when the injury occurred because he knew his playing career was over. But despite the hurt, he wasn't bitter. Rather, he was philosophical. Injuries are part of the game, he said. Players understand the risks every time they step on the field.

On the plus side, Grixby has graduated, receiving a bachelors' degree in business administration in May. And he might well step on the practice field again, in a different capacity.

He wants to become a coach, which is "kind of interesting," said Solich.

Players who suffer career-ending injuries often stay on to help coach. And "it would be great for him to be able to be around the program still," Solich said. But his situation is different.

Programs are allowed only two graduate assistant coaches, and with Dan McLaughlin and Carl Pelini in those positions, "I'm not sure what all he can do to help us," said Solich.

Grixby has the personality suited to a coach. "He's got a pretty even disposition, like all of us coaches," Solich said with a laugh. "He does. He has a very even disposition, and I think the players would enjoy being coached by him because of that. And he's very bright, a very competitive guy.

"So I'm sure he'd make a good coach. I think he'd make a great coach."

In last season's opener against Arizona State, Grixby made two blocks on a 33-yard touchdown run by quarterback Jammal Lord, the second against 6-3, 242-pound Terrell Suggs. Grixby described the block as having "decleated" Suggs, who is now in his rookie season with the Baltimore Ravens.

Grixby was giving away about 20 pounds and 7 inches to Suggs. But "I don't back down from anybody," he said not long afterward. "I love hitting. I love blocking."

In other words, he loved playing the game.

That love took a physical toll. And now he won't be playing the game anymore. ■

***Mike Babcock** is a former sports columnist for the Lincoln Journal Star. He has covered Nebraska football for more than 20 years. Mike can be reached at MBABCOCK1@neb.rr.com or P.O. Box 6782, Lincoln, NE 68506.*

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Out Of Control

Officials look for answers to problems associated with fans storming the field

Curt McKEEVER

IN A SPAN OF THREE WEEKS, Big 12 Commissioner Kevin Weiberg watched Kansas, Baylor and Missouri produce thrilling victories that were stained by out-of-control, post-game frenzies on the field.

Nebraska Athletic Director Steve Pederson was so upset by the scene on and around Missouri's Faurot Field following the Tigers' 41-24 win against the Huskers that he talked about a general "erosion of civility" that has become prevalent in college athletic celebrations.

Indeed, storming the field is one of college football's most disturbing, but perhaps unsolvable problems.

Check out SportsCenter on a Saturday night, and chances are good you'll see goal posts cracking from the weight of jubilant and, in many cases, intoxicated fans. Iowa State even put the celebration scenes from its victory against Nebraska last year on the front and back covers of its media guide.

We may see the same with Missouri's next season. That's sad because it takes away from the event.

Long after the Tigers produced their first win against NU since 1978, the topic of note was Nebraska's Kellen Huston, who was caught on camera decking a former Missouri student as he was leaving the field. Huston claimed that he was only defending himself from what he perceived as a threat to his safety, but he still served a one-game suspension for a no-win situation that never should have occurred.

What's next for players? Do they start packing pepper spray for their post-game stroll to the locker room, if local security allows an unimpeded path?

A few years ago, Denver police used pepper spray and tear gas on Colorado State fans who wanted to charge the field after the Rams beat Colorado.

Some schools have installed surveillance cameras to deter the field crashers.

After West Virginia knocked Virginia Tech from the ranks of the unbeaten, the school's police used pepper spray as a last-ditch effort to keep the peace on the gridiron. But the publicity that followed was hardly flattering.

"In the long run, the officers really used restraint," WVU DPS Chief Bob Roberts told the Morgantown (W.Va.) Dominion Post. "We don't use pepper spray unless it's justified. It's not like the old days of clubbing people. We allowed the fans on the field to celebrate with the team. The whole thing about the goal posts was just a matter of safety."

The concern, Roberts said, stemmed from two past incidents in Ohio.

Two years ago, a Ball State student was paralyzed by a falling goal post as he and others celebrated a win against Toledo. Last month, again at Toledo, two students suffered serious injuries when the goal posts came down after an upset of Pittsburgh.

Jubilant Missouri fans tear down the goal posts Oct. 11.

West Virginia Vice President for Student Affairs Ken Gray said he was disappointed at the turn the celebration took, because it diverted attention from the Mountaineers' performance. But Gray said the decision to use pepper spray worked because "there were no serious injuries or property damage."

Prevention is the real action. Weiberg has met with alumni and student groups from all Big 12 schools. The league has issued a policy statement that calls for schools to provide enough security to keep fans from storming the field.

They've strengthened education efforts. But really, such matters are out of Weiberg's control.

"This policy can't be run from the league office," he said. "It has to come from the schools."

How hard are they trying?

In the West Virginia case, more than 20 arrests were made, and others identified on videotape or newspaper photographs were facing the possibility of disciplinary action.

At Missouri, more than 60 arrests were made inside and outside the stadium after the Tigers' win against Nebraska.

And Kansas recently installed collapsible goal posts in response to fans tearing down the ones following KU's victory against Missouri.

It's somewhat mystifying why protecting them has become such a priority. And yet, if schools don't make major financial commitments to keep the post-game celebrations off fields, the ugly incidents will continue to happen.

The Big 12 needs to do more to enforce its rules. If there are schools that aren't getting the job done, maybe they should be fined.

I'm all for a good celebration, but let's keep it in the stands. And keep it in good taste.

Nebraska isn't immune to such concerns, but the reality is clear: School's that win on a regular basis have less potential for problems than those that pull the occasional upset. How many other places are there in the country, where fans applaud the opposing team as it exits the field, as is almost always the case in Memorial Stadium?

It's that kind of attitude that might end up being the biggest deterrent to post-game eruptions that filter on to the field.

Following a men's basketball game at Kansas last year, a group of KU students jumped from the bleachers and started dancing at midcourt. They received a hearty boo from the others in Allen Fieldhouse and quickly dispersed.

Peer pressure can make a difference.

"This isn't just a Morgantown phenomenon," West Virginia's Roberts said. "It's happening at schools all across the country. We as a society just have to keep saying that this is not appropriate. We're not going to accept this." ■

***Curt McKeever** is a sportswriter, covering the University of Nebraska for the* Lincoln Journal Star. *In addition to reporting on football he is the primary beat writer for the men's basketball and baseball teams.*

Taking It Away

Ability to consistently win the turnover battle involves much more than luck

Terry DOUGLASS

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR a single reason why Nebraska has been able to transform from a 7-7 team to a contender for the Big 12 Conference's North Division title, look no further than the ability to create turnovers.

There's no doubt that a new attitude, a retooled coaching staff and renewed commitment have all played a part in Nebraska's better-than-expected start. But in the search for tangible proof, Cornhusker Coach Frank Solich would be the first to agree that being on the positive side of the turnover ratio is monumental.

"I don't think there is any question that is the biggest stat there is when you start to look at wins and losses year after year," Solich said. "Turnover margin is critical."

Through its first eight games, the Cornhuskers had created 32 turnovers. That figure is particularly impressive considering they had 21 takeaways in 14 games last season.

Nebraska's ball-hawking defense is on track to create the most turnovers since the 1999 defense — regarded as one of the best in the program's history — recorded 35 takeaways. The school record is 47 set in 1970.

Measuring the impact of producing so many turnovers is impossible. What we do know is that Nebraska's first 32 takeaways were converted into 103 points.

"We know what the game is all about as far as how it works when you struggle with the turnover ratio," said Solich, whose team was on the wrong side of the statistic in a 41-24 loss at Missouri on Oct. 11. "If you can win the turnover ratio or turnover battle, you've taken a big step toward getting things done right."

Heading into the Texas game, Nebraska led the nation in turnover margin at plus-1.88 per game. That's quite a contrast to last season when the Huskers finished minus-3 in turnover ratio for the year, marking the first time the program had finished with a negative ratio since 1984.

Barrett Ruud returned an interception for a score vs. Texas A&M.

"Comparing it to last season, of course it's a great difference, and I think the combination of things that we're doing has really helped make that difference," Solich said. "The players have kind of carried it a step beyond just being at the right place at the right time. They've really stepped up and made great plays."

One thing you'll never convince Nebraska's coaching staff of is that the Huskers' ability to consistently win the turnover battle is simply luck.

"I don't believe in luck. You make your own luck," defensive coordinator Bo Pelini said. "We don't say 'good luck,' we say 'let's go get it done, and let's go attack the football. Let's play with effort. Let's get hats around the ball.'

"You have to be around the football to be able to make those plays. Our guys have been doing that. They're making plays, and hopefully it continues."

Nebraska's defenders say Pelini makes creating turnovers a major focus in practice sessions — and it doesn't stop there. Once the Blackshirts come up with the football, they're encouraged to try and score.

"We talk about it. We stress it. The players believe in it, and they go out there with the mindset that they're going to go get the football, and that's to their credit," Pelini said. "You can call it luck. You can call it anything you want, but guys have to be able to make plays, and that's what they're doing."

Middle linebacker Barrett Ruud said the Blackshirts are taking pride in taking the ball away from opponents.

"There are turning points in games when you get turnovers, and basically that's how you win or lose a game," Ruud said. "It's a big emphasis on our defense, getting the ball out and getting the offense the ball again."

Asked if Nebraska's ability to manufacture interceptions and fumbles was a credit to the players or Pelini's new scheme, Solich splits the praise.

First, Solich said the Huskers have defenders who possess both speed and a nose for the football. Free safety Josh Bullocks comes to mind, as he tied NU's single-season interception record with seven in his first seven games, including pickoffs in four straight contests.

"Josh has got a great knack for playing the middle of the field, being able to cover a lot of ground, anticipating throws, breaking on the ball and has the speed to get where he needs to get," Solich said. "But he's also positioned in a manner now that's enabling him to use all of his talent."

It seems the combination of film study and coaching pointers has the Blackshirts thinking one step ahead. Perhaps Ruud best described the mental process used to gain an edge this season when asked to relive his interception against Texas A&M.

"I kind of had an idea on where he was going to go with the ball because I saw (the quarterback) recognized that we were going to blitz on the play, and usually when a quarterback sees that, he is going to get rid of it faster than normal," Ruud said. "In relation to where I was supposed to drop, I only saw one receiver out there, so I just ran to that guy."

The result was a turnover and a touchdown for Nebraska as Ruud returned the interception for a score.

Despite the priority Pelini's unit places on getting interceptions and stripping the ball away, Solich isn't concerned the focus could hurt in the form of missed tackles and big plays allowed. With pursuit being one of the defense's top attributes, the Huskers have the luxury of having the first defender make the tackle and the second go for the football.

"They know how it works," Solich said. "It's a deal where you're going to have your opportunities in the games to make big plays, and when the those opportunities come, you step up to the plate and you make them.

"Our players have been doing a good job of that this year."■

Terry Douglass *is the sports editor of the Grand Island Independent. He can be reached at tdbbdouglass@earthlink.net.*

Going Bowling

I-back Ross, teammates enjoy 'friendly' competition on the lanes

The bowling ball was green, with a four-leaf clover design.

"It looked pretty sweet," Cory Ross says, describing the kind of ball he wants.

"I'm getting some money together and I'm going to buy my own personal ball. I want a fancy one."

He also intends to buy bowling shoes. But a ball is his priority.

That's critical to competing against freshman Greg Austin, who has "the shoes, the bag, the whole thing," says Ross. "He's my competition now because he has a good ball."

Ross, Austin and freshman Joe Dailey bowl on Sunday nights, and "Greg's a cheater," Ross says.

Well, actually, Austin doesn't cheat. It's just that he has his own bowling ball, while Ross and Dailey and anyone else who joins them use the balls available at the bowling alley.

"We use balls that are cracked up," says Ross. "I don't think it's fair that he gets to use a smoother ball, a better ball. He always says, 'A real bowler's got to bowl with his own ball.'

"I told him, 'A real bowler can bowl with any ball.' "

And Ross considers himself a real bowler, "like a professional," he says with a smile.

The sophomore I-back has been bowling since high school, off and on, with varying degrees of success. About two summers ago, however, he really got hooked on the activity.

It started when a local alley had a "bikini night" promotion, offering free bowling for those in bikinis. So he and Titus Adams wore their Husker shorts and bowled for free, he says.

During winter conditioning, Ross and several other players, including Jammal Lord, Demorrio Williams and Jerrell Pippens, regularly went bowling on Wednesday nights.

"That was our thing," says Ross, whose personal best is a 232.

There's more to it than that, however. Scores are secondary to the competition, and the talk that goes with it. "When I win, I talk about it pretty bad," Ross says. "I can make a person mad."

On a recent Sunday, when Ross was bowling well, "Austin "would not talk the whole night." When Austin had the upper hand, after he got his own ball from home, Ross was mad.

"I was bowling so bad, I almost quit," he says. "But I'm no quitter."

Afterward, Ross asked to try Austin's ball and "threw like three strikes. 'Man, it's your ball. That's why you're so good.' His ball was hitting that hook. I'd probably bowl 250 (with it)."

Bowling is just one of several things Ross likes to do when he's not doing something football related or studying. He watches movies, any kind, reality shows on television, all of them, and dances.

"I like to think I'm the best dancer on the team," he says.

"I try to go to a party, a boring party with people just sitting around, and make it hot. The music is playing but nobody's dancing, so me and Joe always go out there and start dancing."

Dailey has "rhythm," says Ross. "But he doesn't do all the booty shaking like I do."

Ross also considered himself pretty good at shooting pool until he played Philip Bland, who "just demolished my whole attitude about that because he's so good," Ross says.

He watches enough movies that "I could be a movie critic, I think," he says. He and some of his teammates, including Adams, regularly test each other quoting lines from movies. Someone will ask, "What movie is that from?" And everyone else will try to be the first with the right answer.

"We watch so many movies, it comes to the point where you know the quotes," he says.

Bowling, movies, dancing, "I like to get out and do a lot of things," says Ross. "There's so much stuff to do, anything and everything, use all the money I can. I'll always be broke. That's my motto."

His next major purchase, for recreational purposes, will probably be that fancy bowling ball.

He has his sights set on Austin, who "throws it so hard, even if he doesn't hit it right, he still gets about eight or nine pins." In contrast, "I'm real smooth. That's my game," Ross says.

"I don't even put all three fingers in. I only put in two, throw that hook."

He's right-handed, "but I think I could beat other people left-handed," he says.

As Ross talked about his skills as a bowler, Dailey walked past on his way to the locker room following a recent practice. "Joe can't bowl for nothing," Ross said, for Dailey to hear.

"I-backs can't catch pitches," Dailey said in response.

"Quarterbacks can't throw 'em right," said Ross.

It was all in good fun, just like at the bowling alley on Sunday nights. ■

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Supportive l

Freshman Dailey says senior Lord a big help

By Mike Babcock

They argue on occasion, an indication of the strength of their friendship.

Joe Dailey can be impatient, eager to get going, according to Cory Ross. Dailey will fidget and say, "Come on, let's go." To which Ross will reply, "Man, we've got 30 minutes. Chill out."

Dailey is "so quick, so fast, wanting to do something," says Ross, who attributes the impatience to Dailey's East Coast background, specifically New Jersey, which is "fast paced."

Dailey accepts that. Where he comes from is markedly different from where he is now. "The issues are a lot different out there than the issues here," he says. "You're more likely to get in a conflict out there than you are here, at a stoplight, over nothing, because it just turned green."

Where he comes from, "you've almost got to defend yourself every moment."

Jammal Lord understands what he is talking about, in a way even Ross probably can't. Lord came to Nebraska from Bayonne, N.J., the next city over from Jersey City, where Dailey came from.

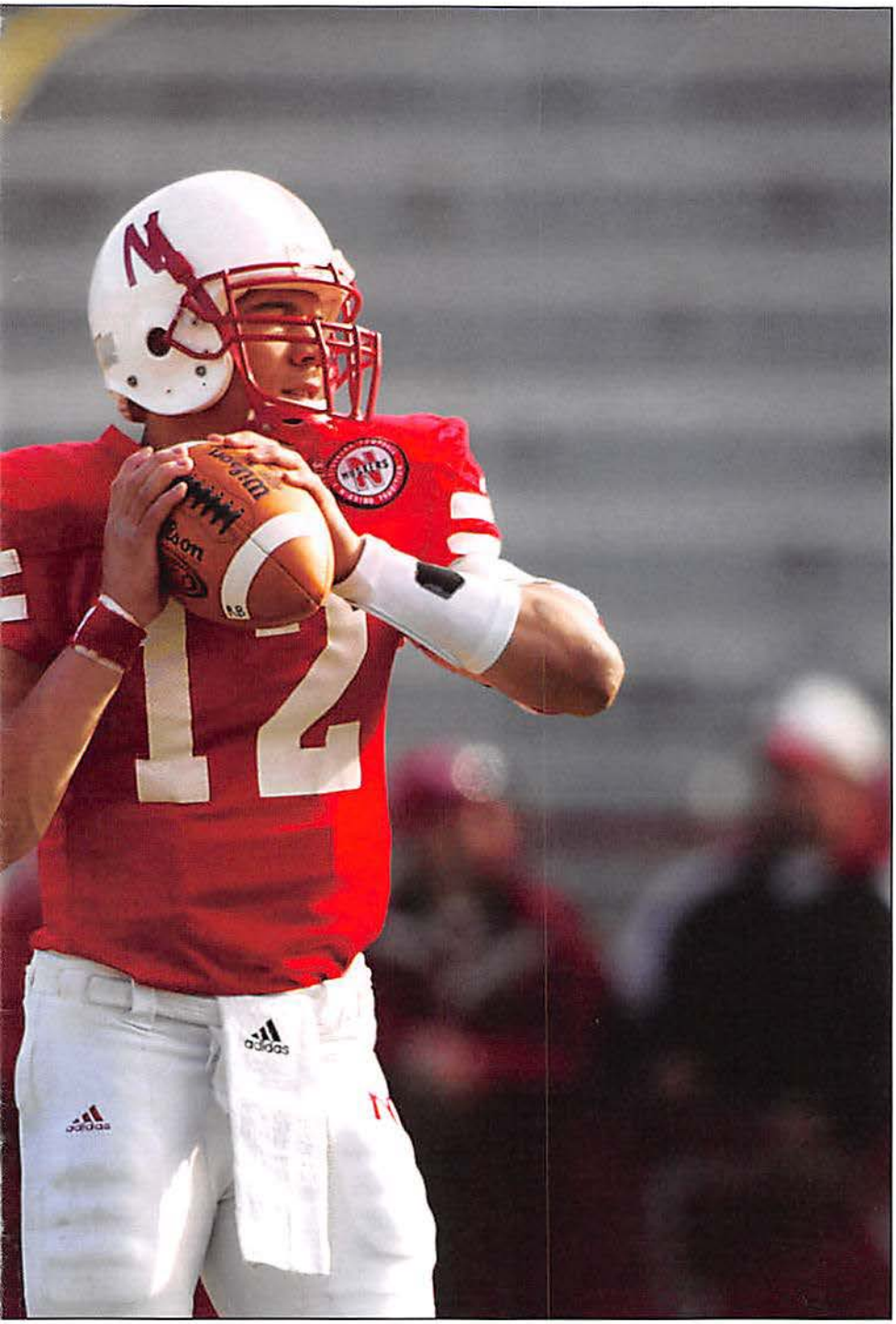
The Cornhuskers' freshman quarterback grew up in central New Jersey, Freehold. But he attended St. Peter's Prep, in the urban sprawl just across the Hudson River from New York City.

Scott Bruhn

Senior Jammal Lord (5) and freshman Joe Dailey (12) get in their throwing before a recent game.

Because of their shared experience, as well as their personalities, Lord and Dailey have established a supportive relationship, even though Lord, a senior, could easily have regarded Dailey as a threat to take his starting job. It can happen. Dailey knew that when he arrived in early

Relationship



Feature Story

June.

Often, "you tend to have, I don't know, not hatred but some negative emotions," he says. "But Jammal has not had that, at all. He's been more like a brother to me. He's helped."

Lord has encouraged him to make the most of his opportunities, reminding him that his time will come. And Dailey has responded in kind. When fans chanted his name during the Utah State game, he said they should be chanting Lord's name instead. "Jammal's the starter," he said afterward. "Everyone has to accept that. I'm still a freshman. I don't have an entire grasp of the game yet."

That was early in the season. He has a better grasp now. Though he hasn't played as much as some might have liked, "no way will this be a wasted year for Joe and this program. In fact, it you look at it, it's just the opposite," says Coach Frank Solich. "Joe will be an experienced quarterback next year."

Dailey agrees. He's still learning the intricacies of Nebraska's offense.

It is similar to the offense he directed in high school, he says. "The only difference is, you've got to pay attention to details.

"I'm not really used to that because in high school, it was just, 'Joe, make plays. Do what you're told and make plays.' Now it's, 'You're going to be able to make plays, but you've got to be specific. You've got to use the right techniques.' That's the only problem, being technique-aware.

"Once I establish that, and get some meat on these bones, I think I'll be all right."

He's listed at 6-feet, 200 pounds. But he needs to get bigger and stronger.

What Dailey appreciates about Lord is, he's "a real guy. He's not going to BS you. He's going to go about his business in a grown manner. He's not going to beat around the bush."

But Lord has his lighter side, as well. "When you talk to Jammal, you've got to understand, he's a character sometimes and he's serious sometimes," says Dailey.

"You tend to have, I don't know, not hatred but some negative emotions. But Jammal has not had that, at all. He's been more like a brother to me. He's helped."

— Freshman Joe Dailey

The same is true of Dailey, says Ross, whom Dailey regards as his best friend on the team. The two met during his recruiting visit, and he stayed with Ross over the summer.

"He's helped me out tremendously," Dailey says of the sophomore I-back.

It hasn't been a one-way street, however. "He's taught me a lot of stuff, too," says the gregarious Ross.

"We help each other out. He's very mature for his age."

Reading "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People: Powerful Lessons in Personal Change" would provide insight into what drives Dailey. He has read and studied Stephen R. Covey's best-selling book, as well as others focusing on self-help and the principles of being successful in life.

"Principles are very important," he says. "If you live a principle-driven life and not just focus on one thing, then there's no excuse for why you shouldn't be successful in all areas of your life, financially, family-wise, relationship-wise with your spouse, your friends, everything."

Those hardly seem the words of a freshman whose college choice was based on the football opportunity it offered. But even his decision to come to Nebraska was unconventional.

He had made an oral commitment to attend Syracuse but reversed field late in the recruiting process, in part, because Syracuse was "more about flashy things, cars, clothes, being 'the man,' " he says.

Syracuse was like Freehold, N.J., in some ways, not all of them good.

What he does miss about Freehold and central New Jersey are the trees. By comparison, "there are fewer trees out here and a lot of nothing," he says. "There's a different scent to it."

In a figurative sense, however, "a lot of nothing" is part of Nebraska's attraction. "Here, everyone gives you your space," he says. "People have respect for one another. I'm used to having someone get on me, tease me or criticize me over something. Out here, everyone's very friendly."

Ross will get on him when he's impatient, of course. But that's different.

"We just connected, established a great relationship," says Dailey. "He's a good guy."

Nebraska is a good place, even if the pace is so much slower than that to which he's accustomed.

When he made his recruiting trip, "this was like heaven to me," Dailey says.

And his first impression has been reinforced with each passing day. ■

The Nebraska defense, led by nose tackle Ryon Bingham (59) and safety Josh Bullocks (20) gang-tackles Texas tailback Cedric Benson.

Texas 31
Nebraska 7

'Worse T

Huskers can't run or stop the run

The exchange was good-natured, at least to begin with.

When Texas quarterback Vince Young was slow getting up late in the game, a Longhorn fan suggested that those dressed in red might want to consider leaving Darrell K. Royal-Texas Stadium quickly if Young were injured. A nearby Nebraska fan suggested in response that Texas Coach Mack Brown ought not to have Young running the ball with a 24-point lead and time running out.

The exchange took on a hard edge, directed at Patrick Kabongo, the tackler.

Young appeared to be all right, however, and the game ended without incident in that section of the stadium, mercifully for Nebraska, which had taken such great expectations to Austin.

Afterward, in an elevator carrying fans from the suites on the stadium's west side, a Texas booster said he "almost started feeling sorry for" the Cornhuskers. "What was the score?" another asked.

Apparently, he had lost interest in the particulars. The final tally was 31-7.

"It was worse than that," said yet another in the elevator.

And so it was. "We got, certainly, out-played, and dominated in some phases," said a subdued Coach Frank Solich. "It seemed like one thing after another. It's obvious we have to play better."

Nebraska avoided being shut out for the first time since 1996 only because of a 48-yard touchdown pass from Jammal Lord to Matt Herian, on a third-and-4, early in the fourth quarter.

The pass provided the most steadfast Cornhusker fans a glimmer of hope that an unthinkable comeback was yet possible. But Texas responded with a 10-play, 71-yard touchdown drive, kept alive by an 8-yard Young pass on third-down-and-7 from the Texas 32-yard line.

"It was frustrating," Nebraska free safety Josh Bullocks said.

Bullocks set up the Cornhuskers' lone touchdown with his school-

By Mike Babcock

Photos by Derek Lippincott

han That'

While Nebraska had trouble catching Texas quarterback Vince Young, the Longhorn defense was all over Husker quarterback Jammal Lord. Young (left) puts a move on NU's Demorrio Williams (7) and Benard Thomas. Texas linebacker Derrick Johnson (above) grabs hold of Lord.

Game Story

record eighth pass interception, to thwart a Texas drive that had reached the Nebraska 11-yard line, first-and-10.

The record "doesn't mean much to me right now," said Bullocks.

Officially, the Cornhuskers won the turnover battle, with two other interceptions to Texas' one. And they limited Texas wide receiver Roy Williams to five catches for 35 yards.

Both of those areas were considered keys to victory going into the game. But very little else went right for Nebraska, which was limited 175 yards of total offense and 53 yards rushing.

The total offense was the Cornhuskers' least since 1991, when they managed only 171 yards against Miami in the Orange Bowl game. The rushing yards were the fewest since at least 1979.

The inability to run the ball impacted the ability to pass. "You have to run the ball first," said Lord, who completed 5-of-15 for 122 yards, 90 of them on two passes to Herian.

"Their guys came out ready," Lord said. "We came out flat."

Why that was so, "I have no idea," he said. "It's going to be addressed by Coach Solich on Monday, so we'll have to wait until then. Monday is a new day."

The burden of defeat couldn't be laid at the feet of the offense, however. Nebraska's meltdown included

Tight end Matt Herian high steps into the end zone on the end of a 48-yard touchdown pass from Jammal Lord, as Nebraska got on the scoreboard in the fourth quarter. Herian had two catches for 90 yards.

Wide receiver Isaiah Fluellen (28), who had three of Nebraska's five receptions, is tackled by Texas safety Michael Huff.

the defense as well as special teams. The Longhorns' Young and Cedric Benson combined to rush for 337 yards. As always, "we wanted to stop the run first," said Bullocks.

But Nebraska was never able to do so. Young had 141 rushing yards by halftime, thanks in part to a 65-yard touchdown run to make the score 14-0 with 4:42 remaining in the second quarter.

Benson ran for 107 yards in the fourth quarter, including 48 on the touchdown drive that eliminated even the most irrational hopes of a Cornhusker comeback.

Benson's rushing yardage was "pretty discouraging," said Nebraska middle linebacker Barrett Ruud, who was credited with 15 tackles. "Sometimes those quarterback plays are tough to stop."

Young made plays when nothing was open. But Benson's runs were basic. Nebraska went into the game

ranked No. 18 nationally in rushing defense, allowing an average of 97.5 yards per game, No. 2 in scoring defense (11.4) and No. 3 in total defense (252.4). Texas gained 484 yards.

The previous high against Nebraska this season was Missouri's 452 total yards.

Cornhusker defensive coordinator Bo Pelini spoke with passion, and short answers afterward. "You go to the next game," he said. "You don't change. You don't cry about it.

"You take your hits and come back. If we do that, we'll be fine."

Like everything else, Nebraska's kicking game suffered. Though the Cornhuskers' Trevor Johnson blocked a 46-yard field goal attempt on Texas' first possession, Nebraska suffered through three center-snap breakdowns, preceding blocks of a punt and a field goal attempt, as well as a play on which punter Kyle Larson attempted to run, only to be tackled at his own 10-yard line.

The defense forced a field goal, which made the score 17-0.

Larson was among Nebraska's few bright spots, averaging 54.4 yards on eight punts.

"We didn't get a great deal done when you add it all up," Solich said, understating the degree to which the Cornhuskers were dominated by a Texas team that had under-achieved. "Obviously, it looked like we got dominated up front. There was way too much pressure on Jammal.

"It didn't seem like we had anybody that played just exceptional. Throughout the course of the game, the effort was good. But it didn't seem like we had a lot of energy.

"We had way too many times where we had breakdowns or they made a play."

Young, a 6-foot-5, 225-pound redshirted sophomore who was starting for the first time in his college career, was responsible for making a majority of the plays, either himself or as a threat.

In fact, Texas Coach Mack Brown might have given Nebraska a break by rotating junior quarterback Chance Mock into the game, beginning with the Longhorns' third series.

Young probably didn't need to be in the game on Texas' next-to-last possession, however, and he certainly didn't need to be carrying the ball. ■

GAME NOTES

Notes And Quotes From The Texas Game

PLAYER OF THE GAME

During his weekly teleconference on the Tuesday before the game, Coach Frank Solich praised punter Kyle Larson. "He's done outstanding," Solich said of the senior from Funk, Neb.

"I think he is an All-American punter. He's not only got a strong leg, he's able to place the ball well. I think that will be very important this week, and as we go down the stretch of the season."

Larson justified the praise, averaging 54.5 yards. He averaged 43.7 yards going into the game.

Included among his eight punts was a career-best 80-yarder, the second-longest in school history to Mike Stigge's 87-yarder against Oklahoma State in 1992. Larson's previous best was 71 yards.

Even so, there was room for improvement. On the 80-yarder, which nearly went out of bounds before crossing the goal line, "I should have had more hang time," said Larson.

He didn't get off a punt as a result of a bad snap, losing 7 yards when he attempted to run, a decision he second-guessed afterward. "I probably should have punted it away," he said.

However, he "reacted on instinct," he said.

NO RUSH HERE

For what it's worth, Nebraska's rushing net of 53 yards wasn't among the 10 lowest in school history. At No. 10 on the all-time list was the Cornhuskers' 31-yard total against Colorado in 1961.

Nebraska had only 20 yards rushing during the first half.

"Today, it didn't work at all," said quarterback Jammal Lord, who finished with a net of 22 yards on 21 carries. He was tackled for 53 yards in losses, including five sacks.

"The offense didn't do their job today," he said. "I didn't do my job today."

Texas didn't do anything unexpected defensively.

"Everything we ran in practice they showed us on the field," said Lord.

He remains Nebraska's leading rusher on the season, with 628 yards.

Texas defenders finished with 16 tackles for losses totaling 79 yards.

INTERCEPTIONS

Three Cornhuskers intercepted passes: Josh Bullocks, Titus Adams — on a deflection by Demorrio Williams — and Lornell McPherson. Nebraska has 21 interceptions for the season, and a turnover total of 35, tying the most by a Solich-coached team.

Nebraska has at least two interceptions in six consecutive games.

Adams' interception, his second in as many games, set up a field goal attempt by David Dyches that was blocked. McPherson's came just before halftime, at his own 1-yard line.

Middle linebacker Barrett Ruud just missed on an opportunity to intercept a Vince Young pass early in the game. "I tried to block it out of my mind," he said of the dropped interception, in response to a reporter's question. "You reminded me. I'll probably be thinking about it a lot on the way home.

"I probably had room to run." He has one interception return for a touchdown this season.

Bullocks' interception was a school-record eighth, breaking the previous record of seven, shared by Larry Wachholtz (1966), Dana Stephenson (1969) and Bill Kosch (1970).

YOUNG-SMITH COMPARISON

Young, the Longhorns' redshirted freshman quarterback, rushed for 141 yards on only nine carries during the first half and finished with 163 yards on 14 carries.

Missouri quarterback Brad Smith rushed for 123 yards against the Cornhuskers.

Texas tailback Cedric Benson rushed for 174 yards, the most against Nebraska this season.

The last time two players on the same team rushed for 100 or more yards against the Cornhuskers was last season, when Kansas State's Ell Roberson (228) and Darren Sproles (155) did it.

BUSY DEFENDERS

In addition to Ruud's game-high 15 tackles, Cornhusker strong safety Daniel Bullocks was credited with double-figure tackles (10). Weakside linebacker Demorrio Williams and nose tackle Ryon Bingham each were credited with seven tackles. The totals are amended after the coaches evaluate film.

TIME OF POSSESSION

Texas dominated time of possession, 33:16 to 26:44. Nebraska ran only eight plays from scrimmage during the first quarter. "I was really tired," said Ruud, who got his second wind.

Despite the Cornhuskers' defensive problems, they allowed only three points in the third quarter. For the season, they have allowed just six third-quarter points. ■

Scouting Report

2003 Schedule

1	Aug. 30	Oklahoma St. (7-2), W 17-7	1-0
2	Sept. 6	Utah State (3-6), W 31-7	2-0
3	Sept. 13	Penn State (2-7), W 18-10	3-0
4	Sept. 25	@ Southern Miss (5-3), W 38-14	4-0
5	Oct. 4	Troy State (4-5), W 30-0	5-0
6	Oct. 11	@ Missouri (6-2), L 41-24	5-1
7	Oct. 18	Texas A&M (4-5), W 48-12	6-1
8	Oct. 25	Iowa State (2-6), W 28-0	7-1
9	Nov. 1	@ Texas (7-2), L 31-7	7-2
10	Nov. 8	@ Kansas (5-4), 2:30 p.m., FSN	
11	Nov. 15	Kansas State (7-3), TBA	
12	Nov. 28	@ Colorado (3-6), 11 a.m., ABC	
	Dec. 7	Big 12 Championship at Kansas City, Mo., 7 p.m.	

Big 12 At A Glance

North	Conf.		All	
Nebraska	3	2	7	2
Kansas State	3	2	7	3
Missouri	2	2	6	2
Kansas	2	3	5	4
Colorado	1	4	3	6
Iowa State	0	4	2	6

South	Conf.		All	
Oklahoma	5	0	9	0
Texas	4	1	7	2
Oklahoma State	3	2	7	2
Texas Tech	3	2	6	3
Texas A&M	2	3	4	5
Baylor	1	4	3	6

Saturday, Nov. 1

Texas 31, Nebraska 7
Texas A&M 45, Kansas 33
Oklahoma 52, Oklahoma State 9
Kansas State 38, Baylor 10
Texas Tech 26, Colorado 21

Saturday, Nov. 8

Nebraska at Kansas
Missouri at Colorado
Kansas State at Iowa State
Texas at Oklahoma State
Texas Tech at Baylor
Texas A&M at Oklahoma

Upcoming Opponents' Schedules

Kansas (5-4)

Aug. 30	Northwestern, L 28-20
Sept. 6	UNLV, W 46-24
Sept. 13	@ Wyoming, W 42-35
Sept. 20	Jacksonville State, W 41-6
Sept. 27	Missouri, W 35-14
Oct. 11	@ Colorado, L 50-47 (ot)
Oct. 18	Baylor, W 28-21
Oct. 25	@ Kansas State, L 42-6
Nov. 1	@ Texas A&M, L 45-33
Nov. 8	Nebraska
Nov. 15	@ Oklahoma State
Nov. 22	Iowa State

Kansas State (7-3)

Aug. 23	vs. California (KC), W 42-28
Aug. 30	Troy State, W 41-5
Sept. 6	McNeese State, W 55-14
Sept. 13	Massachusetts, W 38-7
Sept. 20	Marshall, L 27-20
Oct. 4	@ Texas, L 24-20
Oct. 11	@ Oklahoma State, L 38-34
Oct. 18	Colorado, W 49-20
Oct. 25	Kansas, W 42-6
Nov. 1	Baylor, W 38-10
Nov. 8	@ Iowa State
Nov. 15	@ Nebraska
Nov. 22	Missouri

Game 10

At Kansas
Nov. 8

Location: Lawrence, Kan.
Enrollment: 27,463
2003 record: 5-4
Coach: Mark Mangino, 2nd year
Series: Nebraska leads 85-21-3

Time: 2:30 p.m., CST, FSN
Memorial Stadium, Lawrence, Kan.

Jayhawk to Watch

Sophomore tailback Clark Green is KU's leading rusher and No. 2 receiver. He has 147 carries for 715 yards and five touchdowns and has caught 31 passes for 368 yards and one TD. Last year as a redshirt freshman, he was the team's leading rusher with 813 yards broke the school record for receptions by a running back with 37.

Quick Facts

The Jayhawks, who started 5-2, still need one win to make them bowl eligible for the first time since 1995.

Freshman quarterback Adam Barmann shed his redshirt status and completed 25-of-37 for 294 yards and four touchdowns and ran for another in his debut against Texas A&M at College Station.

Coach Mark Mangino turned to Barmann when backups Brian Luke and John Nielsen didn't fare well after senior Bill Whittemore went down with a shoulder injury against Kansas State. Whittemore could return for the season finale against Iowa State on Nov. 22.

Charles Gordon had nine receptions for 89 yards against A&M to set a KU freshman single-game receptions record.

On Deck

Kansas State
Nov. 15

Location: Manhattan, Kan.
Enrollment: 22,762
2003 record: 7-3
Coach: Bill Snyder, 15th year
Series: Nebraska leads 72-13-2

Time: TBA
Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb.

Tentative 2-Deeps

Nebraska Offense

WR	X	2	Ross Pilkington*	6-0	190	So.
		28	Isaiah Fluellen	6-0	180	RFr.
LT		51	Richie Incognito*	6-3	300	So.
		69	Nick Povendo*	6-3	300	Jr.
LG		78	Mike Erickson**	6-4	305	Jr.
		75	Brandon Koch	6-3	310	So.
C		79	Josh Sewell*	6-2	300	Sr.
		64	Kurt Mann	6-3	290	RFr.
RG		71	Jake Andersen*	6-1	300	Jr.
		65	Greg Austin	6-1	285	Fr.
RT		68	Dan Vili Waldrop***	6-5	350	Sr.
		68	Darren DeLone	6-5	320	Jr.
TE	Y	11	Matt Herian*	6-5	240	So.
		82	Phil Peetz**	6-2	270	Sr.
QB		5	Jammal Lord***	6-2	220	Sr.
		12	Joe Dailey	6-0	200	Fr.
FB		4	Judd Davies***	6-0	250	Sr.
		45	Steve Kriewald**	5-10	250	Jr.
IB		1	Josh Davis**	5-11	205	Sr.
		9	David Horne*	6-0	200	So.
WR	Z	10	Mark LeFlore*	5-11	185	So.
		13	Tim Lilley*	6-2	205	Sr.
PK		27	David Dyches	6-1	190	Fr.

Nebraska Defense

LDE	5	Benard Thomas**	6-4	265	Jr.
	96	Titus Adams*	6-3	290	So.
NT	59	Ryon Bingham**	6-3	290	Sr.
	94	Patrick Kabongo***	6-6	320	Sr.
DT	66	Le Kevin Smith*	6-2	305	So.
	74	Brandon Teamer	6-5	270	Fr.
RDE	88	Trevor Johnson***	6-4	255	Sr.
	90	Adam Carriker	6-6	260	RFr.
BLB	2	T.J. Hollowell***	6-0	230	Sr.
	11	Ira Cooper**	6-2	230	Jr.
MLB	38	Barrett Ruud*	6-2	240	Jr.
	54	Chad Sievers*	6-3	230	Jr.
WLB	7	Demorrio Williams	6-1	210	Sr.
	39	Chad Buller*	5-11	215	Sr.
LCB	3	Fabian Washington*	5-11	175	So.
	4	Terrell Butler*	5-10	190	Sr.
FS	20	Josh Bullocks*	6-1	195	So.
	31	Jerrell Pippens***	6-2	195	Sr.
SS	14	Daniel Bullocks*	6-1	200	So.
	23	Shane Siegel*	6-2	210	So.
RCB	28	Pat Ricketts***	5-11	180	Sr.
or	1	Lornell McPherson**	5-9	175	Jr.
P	19	Kyle Larson**	6-0	205	Sr.

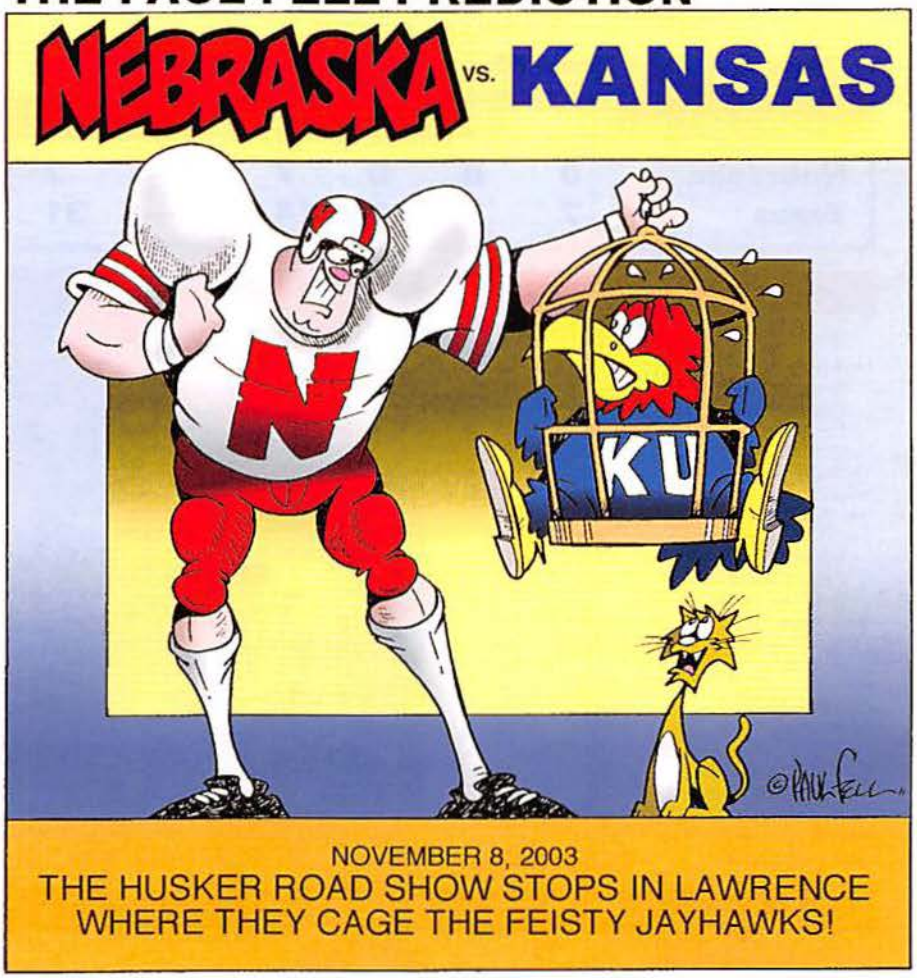
Kansas Offense

SE	84	Brandon Rideau**	6-4	190	Jr.
	6	Moderick Johnson	6-5	190	Fr.
LT	72	Adrian Jones***	6-5	260	Jr.
	78	Danny Lewis*	6-4	295	Sr.
LG	77	Bob Whitaker	6-5	325	RFr.
	76	Justin Henry*	6-4	285	Jr.
C	56	Joe Vaughn	6-1	280	Jr.
	74	David Ochoa	6-4	250	RFr.
RG	75	Tony Coker*	6-5	320	Jr.
	69	Travis Dambach	6-4	260	Fr.
RT	78	Danny Lewis*	6-4	295	Sr.
	72	Richard Estrella	6-4	285	Jr.
TE	86	Lyonel Anderson	6-3	235	Jr.
	82	Denver Latimore*	6-2	250	Sr.
QB	7	Adam Barmann	6-4	210	Fr.
	14	Brian Luke*	6-6	220	So.
TB	30	Clark Green*	5-11	205	So.
	1	John Randle	6-0	175	Fr.
FB	33	Austine Nwabuisi*	6-0	235	Jr.
	36	Cullen Homolka	5-9	245	Jr.
FL	3	Charles Gordon	5-11	165	RFr.
	19	Derick Mills***	5-7	165	Sr.
K	46	Johnny Beck**	6-1	215	Jr.

Kansas Defense

DE	88	Monroe Weekley	6-4	256	So.
	44	Reggie Curry*	6-2	245	Sr.
N	98	Cory Kipp*	6-4	280	Sr.
	90	Tim Allen*	6-0	270	So.
DT	94	Chuck Jones	6-4	275	Jr.
	81	Sid Bachmann*	6-2	270	Sr.
DE	92	David McMillan**	6-3	240	Jr.
	91	Kyle Knighton	6-3	250	RFr.
OLB	5	Banks Floodman*	6-3	230	So.
	52	Greg Tyree*	6-0	245	Jr.
MLB	1	Gabriel Toomey	6-4	235	So.
	45	Kevin Kane*	6-2	220	So.
OLB	7	Nick Reid*	6-4	220	So.
	59	Brandon Perkins*	6-1	220	So.
CB	22	Shelton Simmons	5-11	175	Jr.
	8	Remuise Johnson*	5-8	170	Sr.
SS	9	Tony Stubbs**	5-10	200	Jr.
	28	Dan Coke*	5-11	215	Sr.
FS	49	Jonathan Lamb	6-2	180	RFr.
	23	Rodney Fowler	6-0	195	So.
CB	26	Donnie Amadi*	5-10	180	So.
	2	Kenneth Thompson	5-11	180	Fr.
P	37	Curtis Ansel**	6-1	210	Sr.

The Paul Fell Prediction



Picks

Nebraska At Kansas

Brian Hill
Editor

KU's Adam Barmann passed for 294 yards and four touchdowns after being pulled out of a redshirt vs. Texas A&M, so the Jayhawks may have found some offense in a replacement for injured starter Bill Whittemore. But Barmann is a true freshman, and the Huskers responded in a big way following their first loss this season. They should this time as well. **Nebraska 30, Kansas 17**

Mike Babcock
Contributing Editor

Senior quarterback Bill Whittemore suffered a collarbone injury against Kansas State that left his status in doubt. The Jayhawks need him to have any hope of winning for the first time since 1968. Even with him, however, they will be hard-pressed to handle the Huskers. **Nebraska 24, Kansas 7**

Terry Douglass
Grand Island Independent
Sports Editor

With dual-threat quarterback Bill Whittemore at the controls, Nebraska's trip to Kansas loomed as a major threat. But now that the Jayhawks' top offensive player is apparently out for the rest of the season with an injury, it's difficult to imagine the Cornhuskers not coming out on top. **Nebraska 37, Kansas 0**

Game Stats

Nebraska Vs. Texas

Nov. 1, 2003 • Texas Memorial Stadium • Austin, Texas

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	**0**	**0**	**0**	**7**	**—**	**7**
Texas	**7**	**7**	**3**	**14**	**—**	**31**

Team Stats

	NU	UT
First Downs	8	25
Rushing	4	17
Passing	3	6
Penalty	1	2
Rushing Attempts	40	51
Yards Gained Rushing	132	363
Yards Lost Rushing	79	10
Net Yards Rushing	53	353
Net Yards Passing	122	131
Passes Attempted	15	27
Passes Completed	5	13
Had Intercepted	1	3
Total Plays	55	78
Total Net Yards	175	484
Avg. Gain Per Play	3.2	6.2
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	6-60	7-80
Punts-Yards	9-469	4-188
Avg. Per Punt	52.1	47.0
Punt Returns-Yards	2-6	7-87
Interceptions-Yards	3-17	1-18
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	3-51	1-27
Possession Time	26:44	33:16

Derek Lippincott

Texas safety Michael Griffin breaks up a pass intended for NU's Matt Herian (11).

Scoring

UT — Cedric Benson 1-yard run (Dusty Mangum kick)

UT — Vince Young 65-yard run (Mangum kick)

UT — Mangum 24-yard field goal

NU — Matt Herian 48-yard pass from Jammal Lord (David Dyches kick)

UT — Benson 5-yard run (Mangum kick)

UT — Benson 12-yard run (Mangum kick)

Att. — 83,308

Weather — partly cloudy

Temp. — 79

Individual Statistics

NEBRASKA

RUSHING

Name	Att.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Davis, J.	10	28	2.8	12	0
Lord, J.	21	22	1.0	12	0
Fluellen, I.	2	5	2.5	9	0
Horne, D.	4	5	1.2	5	0
Davies, J.	2	0	0.0	3	0
Team	1	-7	-7.0	0	0

PASSING

Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Lord, J.	5-15-1	33.3	122	1

RECEIVING

Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Fluellen, I	3	32	10.7	18	0
Herian, M.	2	90	45.0	48	1

PUNTING

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG	I20
Larson, K.	8	435	54.4	80	1
Team	1	34	34.0	34	0

PUNT RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Ross, C.	2	6	3.0	3	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Davis, J.	3	51	17.0	25	0

FIELD GOALS

Name	Att.	Good	Long
Dyches, D.	1	0	0

DEFENSE

Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Ruud, B.	7	8	15	2-4	0	0
Bullocks, D.	8	2	10	0	0	0
Williams, D.	4	3	7	0	0	0
Bingham, R.	3	4	7	3-6	0	0
Washington, F.	6	0	6	0	0	0
Johnson, T.	5	0	5	0	0	0
Hollowell, T.	2	2	4	0	0	0
Kabongo, P.	1	3	4	0	0	0
Buller, C.	3	0	3	0	0	0
Teamer, B.	3	0	3	0	0	0
Bullocks, J.	3	0	3	0	1-20	0
Ricketts, P.	2	1	3	0	0	0
Smith, L.	1	2	3	0	0	0
Adams, T.	1	1	2	0	1-(-3)	0
Pippens, J.	1	1	2	0	0	0
Cooper, I.	1	0	1	0	0	0
McPherson, L.	1	0	1	0	1-0	0
Thomas, B.	0	1	1	0	0	0

TEXAS

RUSHING

Name	Att.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Benson, C.	28	174	6.2	39	3
Young, V.	14	163	11.6	65	1
Mock, C.	1	8	8.0	8	0
Matthews, W.	2	6	3.0	4	0
Robin, B.	2	3	1.5	2	0
Hardy, A.	2	2	1.0	2	0
Young, S.	2	-3	-1.5	2	0

PASSING

Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Young, V.	8-15-2	53.3	68	0
Mock, C.	5-12-1	41.7	63	0

RECEIVING

Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Williams, R.	5	37	7.0	21	0
Thomas, S.	4	40	10.0	13	0
Johnson, B.	2	44	22.0	23	0
Scaife, B.	1	15	15.0	15	0
Jeffery, T.	1	-3	-3.0	0	0

PUNTING

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG	I20
McGee, R.	4	188	47.0	51	1

PUNT RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Vasher, N.	7	87	12.4	17	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Young, S.	1	27	27.0	27	0

FIELD GOALS

Name	Att.	Good	Long
Mangum, D.	2	1	24

DEFENSE LEADERS

Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Johnson, D.	4	2	6	1-2	1-18	0
Wright, R.	4	1	5	1-8	0	1-8
Geiggar, P.	4	1	5	1-7	0	0
Huff, M.	4	1	5	3-16	0	0.5-7
Williams, M.	3	2	5	4-21	0	2-18
Griffin, C.	3	1	4	0	0	0
Boyd, R.	2	2	4	1-6	0	0
Crowder, T.	2	2	4	2-4	0	0
Thornton, K.	3	0	3	1-8	0	1-8
Vasher, N.	3	0	3	0	0	0
Harris, A.	2	1	3	2-7	0	0.5-4
Griffin, M.	2	0	2	0	0	0
Sendlein, A.	2	0	2	0	0	0
Tubbs, M.	1	1	2	0	0	0

2003 Season Stats

RUSHING LEADERS

Name	G	Att.	Yds.	YPG	TD
Lord, J.	9	150	628	69.8	9
Davis, J.	9	126	534	59.3	2
Horne, D.	9	101	424	47.1	4
Ross, C.	9	36	139	15.4	1
Dailey, J.	5	32	128	25.6	0
Fluellen, I.	7	10	100	14.3	1
Miller, R.	6	10	65	10.8	1
Davies, J.	9	22	55	6.1	2
Kriewald, S.	9	8	52	5.8	0
LeFlore, M.	9	2	21	2.3	0

PASSING

Name	G	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Lord, J.	9	54-103-5	52.4	791	4
Dailey, J.	5	9-14-2	64.3	117	2

RECEIVING

Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPC	YPG	TD
Herian, M.	9	17	383	22.5	42.6	2
Pilkington, R.	9	14	210	15.0	23.3	1
LeFlore, M.	9	13	123	9.5	13.7	1
Fluellen, I.	7	6	117	19.5	16.7	2
Davis, J.	9	4	21	5.2	2.3	0
Davies, J.	9	4	19	4.8	2.1	0
Ross, C.	9	1	10	10.0	1.1	0
Keiser, D.	9	1	9	9.0	1.0	0
Kriewald, S.	9	1	6	6.0	0.7	0
Horne, D.	9	1	5	5.0	0.6	0
Liley, T.	9	1	5	5.0	0.6	0

FIELD GOALS

Name	G	Att.	Good	Long
Dyches, D.	8	16	11	41
DeAngelis, S.	6	3	1	28

PUNTING

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG	I20
Larson, K.	47	2,138	45.5	80	17

PUNT RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Davis, J.	23	214	9.3	30	0
Ross, C.	6	62	10.3	30	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Davis, J.	14	364	26.0	43	0
O'Holleran, J.	2	27	13.5	21	0

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

Name	G	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	S/Yds.
Ruud, B.	9	39	54	93	10-37	1-27	2.5-21
Williams, D.	9	51	31	82	10-45	1-2	6.5-40
Hollowell, T.	9	25	26	51	5-24	1-10	1-10
Johnson, T.	9	25	23	48	7-23	0	2-15
Washington, F.	9	30	14	44	2-3	3-14	0
Bullocks, D.	9	28	16	44	4-5	0	0
Bullocks, J.	9	13	19	32	0	8-113	0
Smith, L.	9	14	16	30	4-12	0	0
Thomas, B.	9	12	16	28	4-20	0	1-7
Bingham, R.	7	12	16	28	5-9	0	1-2

TEAM STATISTICS

	NU	OPP
Total Offensive Yards	3,034	2,503
Plays	628	594
Average Per Play	4.8	4.2
Average Per Game	337.1	278.1
Net Rushing Yards	2,126	1,133
Attempts	509	309
TDs Rushing	20	10
Net Passing Yards	908	1,370
Completions	63	132
Average Per Pass	7.6	4.8
Average Per Catch	14.4	10.4
Average Per Game	100.9	152.2
TDs Passing	6	5
Sacks By-Yards	18-137	14-112
Fumbles-Lost	25-11	23-14
Penalties-Yards	67-504	455-435

Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
NU	80	32	88	41	0	241
Opponents	31	31	6	54	0	122

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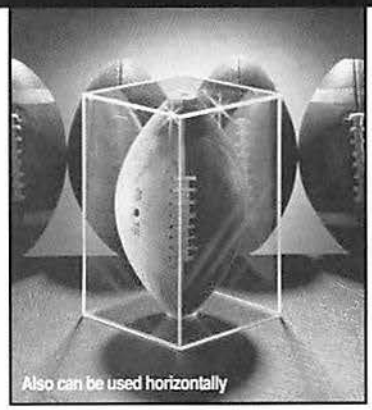

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Ring Record?

Kosch, son were part of five national championships

By Mike Babcock

Bill Kosch can't verify it. But he and son Jesse might hold a record with five national championship rings between them. "I can't think of anybody else with five," he says.

Tom Osborne would have five, of course, two as an assistant coach and three as a head coach. But Kosch is talking about players' rings. He was a member of the Cornhuskers' national championship teams in 1970 and 1971. And Jesse was a member of the teams in 1994, 1995 and 1997.

"So maybe we lead the nation," says Kosch.

And even if they don't, having five rings in one family is special.

"It's like winning the lottery," he says.

Kosch, an all-conference safety on Coach Bob Devaney's championship teams, wasn't sure he had a potential winning ticket when he was a senior at Columbus (Neb.) Scotus High School.

He didn't know if he was good enough to play at the major college level, for one thing. And he didn't know that Nebraska was recruiting him, for another. Cornhusker assistant Clete Fischer showed up at basketball practice one day and asked a few questions. "That was it," Kosch says.

There was no campus-recruiting trip, no flood of letters from boosters. It was very low key. Not long after Fischer's visit, Nebraska called to offer a scholarship. And Kosch accepted.

The only other school to show an interest was Notre Dame. But "if I played anywhere, it would be at Nebraska," he says. "Notre Dame, I didn't give it a second thought."

He grew up watching Sunday morning telecasts of the previous day's Fighting Irish games, with Lindsay Nelson describing the action.

"I never did like Notre Dame," he says.

Kosch, fuels manager for Nebraska Public Power District in Lincoln, was a member of the first of the recruiting classes that helped turn around the program following 6-4 records in 1967 and 1968.

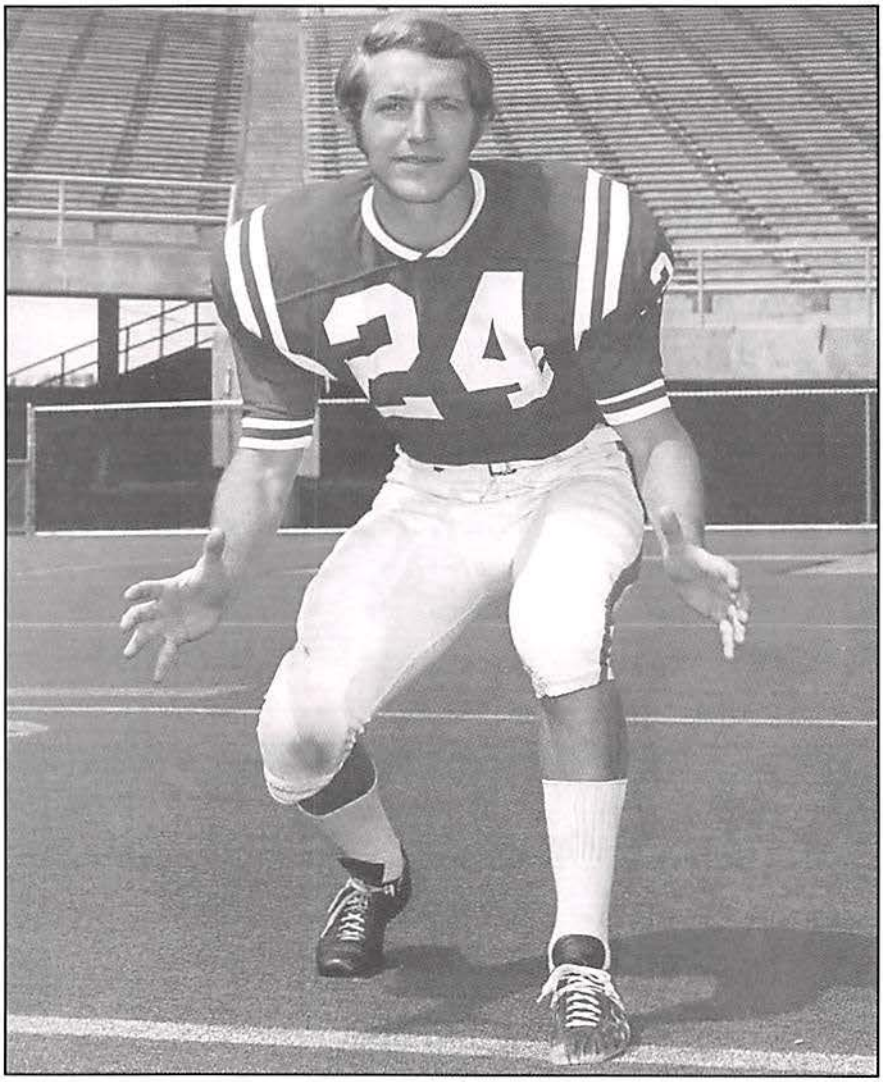
His class included several who contributed significantly to the 1970 and 1971 national championship teams, among them Jerry Tagge, Jeff Kinney, Jim Anderson and Larry Jacobson.

After a 2-2 start in 1969, Kosch's sophomore season, Devaney called a team meeting to assure the players such mediocrity would "cease," punctuating his point with an expletive or two.

"It was rare that he gave speeches," says Kosch. But when he did, players paid heed.

Ordinarily, Devaney "coached the coaches," Kosch says, and left the coaching of players to assistants. He would move from station to station during practice, providing encouragement or criticism as the situation warranted. He understood that individual players were motivated differently.

At halftime of the Missouri game in 1970, with the score tied at 7, the players were sitting quietly in the north



Bill Kosch, a two-time All-Big Eight safety, tied the Nebraska record with seven interceptions in 1970.

fieldhouse, contemplating a poor first-half performance. Suddenly, the silence was broken by the sound of footsteps and a voice whispering, barely audible, "We can do it."

Devaney worked his way from the back of the room, through the players. By the time he reached the front, his whispers had been drowned in a "roar from the players." Nebraska won 21-7.

"He was a cornfield psychologist, not a book psychologist like Tom (Osborne)," says Kosch. "He wasn't complicated, just effective. You wanted to die for him. And we did."

Unlike the Nebraska teams that preceded Devaney's arrival from Wyoming in 1962, however, they didn't leave everything they had on the practice field. Practices were organized and moved quickly, without the constant contact that characterized those of his predecessor, Bill Jennings.

Kosch has read accounts of pre-Devaney teams. "It sounded like 'The Junction Boys,' " he says, referring to the book about a Bear Bryant-coached team at Texas A&M. "They had nothing left."

Then as now, defensive players coveted black practice jerseys. "You knew what the black, gold and green (jerseys) meant," says Kosch, who earned a Blackshirt as a junior.

He wore a gold jersey, indicating he was second team, as a sophomore, no small accomplishment for his first season on the varsity, but "they let me know I wasn't a Blackshirt."

As a two-year Blackshirt, he has definite opinions about the awarding of the jerseys. "There should only be 11 of them. You should know who they are," he says. "That's why you bleed."

Kosch's name has come up this season as a result of sophomore free safety Josh Bullocks' interception prowess. Through eight games, Bullocks had intercepted seven passes to tie the school single-season record shared by Kosch, Larry Wachholtz and Dana Stephenson.

Bullocks' would have had an eighth against Iowa State had the official not ruled that he came down out of bounds. He knew how Bullocks felt, Kosch says. Against Kansas State in 1970, the season in which he had seven interceptions, he intercepted a pass only to be ruled out of bounds.

"I was within the chalk line," he says. "But what can you do?"

He already had two interceptions in that game, when the Cornhuskers set the school single-game record with seven. Teammate Joe Blahak intercepted a record three that day.

Kosch and Blahak grew up together in Columbus and both went to Scotus High.

Blahak knows he should have had three interceptions, too, Kosch says. He still shares the school record for the longest interception return, taking one back 95 yards for a touchdown against Texas A&M in 1971. Willie Greenlaw had a 95-yard return for a touchdown against Colorado in 1955.

Son Jesse walked on and was Nebraska's starting punter from 1995 through 1997. He ranks third in career-punting average (42.92) and averaged a third-best 44.70 yards per punt in 1996.

Jesse is a high school football coach in Estes Park, Colo. His younger brother Jeff is a junior at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln. Jeff has an even stronger leg that Jesse, according to their dad, and "I wish he had gone to Nebraska. But he wanted to play running back."

The important thing is, he's happy at Wesleyan, despite injury problems. And besides, the Kosch family couldn't ask for much more from Nebraska than five national championship rings. ■

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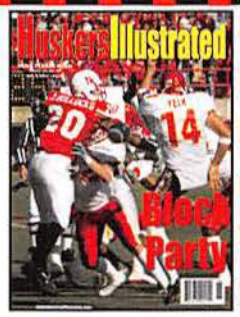

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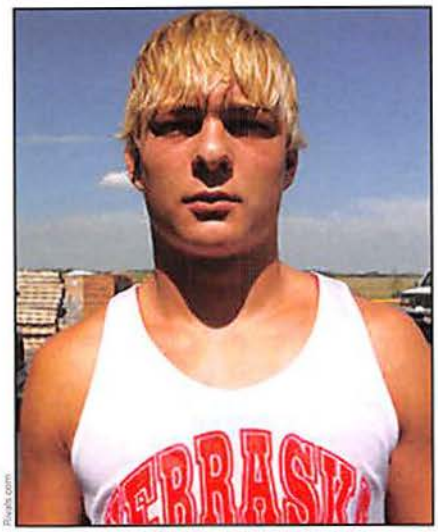
Recruiting Class About Half Filled

Huskers have 11 commits with almost 3 months to go

By Doug Horwich



Clay Sievers of Elkhorn, Neb., has committed to join older brother Chad at Nebraska.

With just more than three months remaining in the 2004 recruiting season, Nebraska is sitting in a reasonably good position, with 11 oral commitments from high school seniors and roughly the same number of scholarship spots remaining.

The Husker staff did a good job of addressing some key recruiting needs during the first eight months of the recruiting season.

Most notably, the quarterback position was targeted early, and commitments were secured from Atlanta, Ga., product D.T. McDowell and Papillion-LaVista's Allan Evridge. If both commitments hold for the duration, the Husker staff will have managed to sign two quarterbacks who are extremely athletic, versatile and well suited for the type of offense that offensive coordinator Barney Cotton would like to run.

The linebacker positions also were targeted in the summer, and commitments from Overland Park, Kan., standout Lance Brandenburgh, Kansas City, Mo., linebacker Michael Keenan and Pawcatuck, Conn., athlete Maurice McClellan give the team an extremely solid foundation for the future at the linebacker positions.

The newest addition to the 2004 class is Elkhorn High School's Clay Sievers (6-foot-4, 220 pounds, 4.75-second 40 time). Sievers is a versatile athlete who could end up playing any number of positions at Nebraska, though he will start his career as a tight end. His brother Chad is currently a backup Mike linebacker for the Huskers.

The commitment from Sievers leaves only Omaha Central High School standouts Cortney Grixby (cornerback) and Brandon Gunn (running back/athlete) and Lincoln

NEBRASKA COMMITMENTS FOR 2004

Player	Hometown (school)	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.
Lance Brandenburgh	Overland Park, Kan. (St. Thomas Aquinas)	6-1	215	LB
Andy Christensen	Bennington, Neb.	6-3	275	DT
Allan Evridge	Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-LaVista)	6-1	205	QB
Mike Huff	Ralston, Neb.	6-5	300	OL
Michael Keenan	Kansas City, Mo. (Oak Park)	6-2	220	LB
Maurice McClellan	Pawcatuck, Conn. (Stonington)	6-3	210	ATH
D.T. McDowell	Tucker, Ga.	6-1	190	QB
Terrence Nunn	Houston, Texas (Cypress Falls)	6-0	185	WR
Seth Olsen	Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)	6-5	300	OL
Clay Sievers	Elkhorn, Neb.	6-4	220	TE/LB
Ty Steinkuhler	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)	6-3	235	DE
Nathan Swift	Hutchinson, Minn.	6-3	190	WR

Southeast High School offensive/defensive lineman Zach Copple as the remaining in-state prospects who have been offered but who have not yet committed anywhere.

Recruiting on the offensive line is also off to a solid start this season. Despite waiting for Copple's commitment, the Husker staff already has secured commitments from the other three in-state offensive linemen they targeted. With commitments from Ralston's Mike Huff, Millard North's Seth Olsen and Bennington's Andy Christensen, a commitment from Copple would complete what appears to be one of the stronger in-state linemen classes in quite some time.

However, all three offensive line positions are in need of additional depth, and the staff is unlikely to be satisfied with only three or four offensive line prospects in the 2004 class. In all likelihood, as many as five or six offensive linemen could be signed this year, divided between offensive tackle, offensive guard and center.

One of the top out-of-state prospects who is being heavily recruited as an offensive tackle is Nyere Aumaitre (6-5, 300, 5.1) from Woodrow Wilson High School in Camden, N.J. Aumaitre visited Lincoln with his mother during the weekend of the Iowa State game and came away extremely impressed. In fact, had it not been his first official visit, he may have committed.

"I really liked it," Aumaitre said about his visit to Lincoln. "They have everything I was looking for in a school and more. The only reason that I didn't commit was that it was my first visit. I don't know yet what other schools have to offer. If I had to commit now though, it would be to Nebraska. They satisfied all of my needs and more."

Aumaitre is looking for a school with solid academics and was impressed by what he saw at Nebraska.

"I talked to the academic counselor," he said. "It was overwhelming, all of the support that they offer. They have workshops for studying and tutors for every possible class that I could take. They even have a program that teaches you how to

RECRUITING NOTES

In-State Players Latest to Say Yes

By Rick Shaw

Nebraska landed its first oral commitments in close to two months when Ralston offensive tackle prospect Mike Huff and Elkhorn tight end/defensive end Clay Sievers said yes to Husker offers. The in-state duo became Nebraska's 11th and 12th commitments for the recruiting class of 2004.

— Sievers, a 6-foot-4, 220-pound athlete, is the younger brother of current Husker linebacker Chad Sievers. With a 4.75-second time in the 40-yard dash and a 37-inch vertical leap, Sievers has the potential to play several different positions for Nebraska.

"Coach Solich talked to me tonight about playing tight end," Sievers said. "He said that they are going to start throwing the ball more and that I could utilize my talents on offense. He also said that the coaches feel that I'm a good blocker. The coaches are also telling me that I could end up playing linebacker or defensive end."

After considering scholarship offers from Iowa, Iowa State, Colorado State and Wyoming, Sievers said he finally made up his mind to follow his heart to Lincoln.

"I should have made a commitment a long time ago," Sievers said. "I've always liked Nebraska, and it will be nice to play with my brother down there next year.

"The whole program at Nebraska and the way they've turned it around this year is great, and the coaches are amazing. It's good to finally put this decision behind me."

— Huff, a 6-foot-5, 300-pound offensive lineman, made his commitment to Nebraska coaches less than 24 hours after being offered a scholarship.

"I'm extremely excited," Huff said. "The Nebraska coaches said that I have the physical tools to come in and make an impact right away. I'll have to see what happens when I get there."

Although the Nebraska scholarship offer was the first for Huff, it didn't look to be the last as several other schools were coming on strong in recent weeks. Iowa, Iowa State, Colorado State, and Kansas were all very interested in the lineman from Ralston.

Huff has excellent strength (395-pound bench press and 500-pound squat) to go with good agility and quickness. He ran a 5.4-second electronic 40-yard dash at the Nebraska camp last summer. Huff also brings a football player's mentality.

"I'd say I'm a pretty aggressive football player," Huff said. "I love the game. I live for the game. I go into a depression mode after the season, because I realize that football is over for another six or seven months. I miss hitting everybody."

"That is the fun part of the game . . . pulling and getting somebody and hitting them."

— Nyere Aumaitre, a 6-foot-5, 300-pound offensive tackle prospect from Wilson High School in Camden, N.J., was in Lincoln to witness Nebraska's 28-0 win over Iowa State. Aumaitre said that the visit vaulted the Huskers to the top of his list.

"I really liked it," Aumaitre said. "They have everything I was looking for in a school and more. The only reason that I didn't commit was that it was my first visit. I don't know yet what other schools have to offer. If I had to commit now though, it would be to Nebraska." ■

study. They also have the most Academic All-Americans of any school — better than Notre Dame.

"My mom was with me on the visit, and she really liked it too. They do a good job of filling the parents in on how their kids are doing in school. They send them progress reports and stuff."

Aumaitre also was impressed by the weight room.

"The weight room was great. They had everything you could think of. The nutritionist talked to me. He told me that he loves working with linemen. He told me he makes sure that he accounts for each individual's needs. I have occasional problems with dehydration, and he told me that he'd stay on top of that.

"The coaches, and strength coaches, and nutritionists all work together. It's like one big circle. If a player isn't performing on the field, he'll work with the strength coach to work the player into better shape. The strength coach will then work with the nutritionist on diet and stuff.

"Everything ties together."

Aumaitre and his mother were definitely made to feel welcome by the staff during their visit.

"The coaching staff was all very friendly," he said. "The head coach (Frank Solich) went to dinner with me twice and breakfast with me twice when I was down there, so they made me feel really wanted. When I walked into (assistant coach) Jimmy Williams' office, he already had a Nebraska jersey stitched with my name on it. That was pretty cool!"

Aumaitre was hosted on his visit by freshman guard Greg Austin, and the two hit it off well.

"Greg Austin plays guard for them," he said. "He was a pretty nice guy. He was a social person and cool. My mom liked him too. He had very good manners and was very polite and answered all of her questions.

"The players had nothing but good things to say about the coaching staff. They said that even if they don't play in the pros that it's like playing in the pros when you play for Nebraska anyway. They treat you right there. All of the players told me that they had no regrets. They all told me to come there."

Aumaitre finally was able to meet offensive line coach Barney Cotton and liked what he heard from Cotton's players.

"He seemed cool," Aumaitre said in reference to Cotton. "He told me that I'm a scholarship player and that he'd expect me to come in and contribute early. He told me not to trust what he said about what it was like playing for him — he told me to ask the players.

"I asked them, and they all talked good about him. They told me that he's an excellent teacher."

Aumaitre said he appreciated the fact that the Husker staff is not trying to pressure him into an early commitment.

"They didn't pressure me," he said. "They told me that they think that Nebraska is the best place for me.

"I told them I needed to take a visit or two to see what else was out there. They say they were comfortable that Nebraska would compare favorably to any other place that I might see." ■

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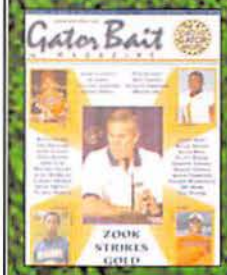

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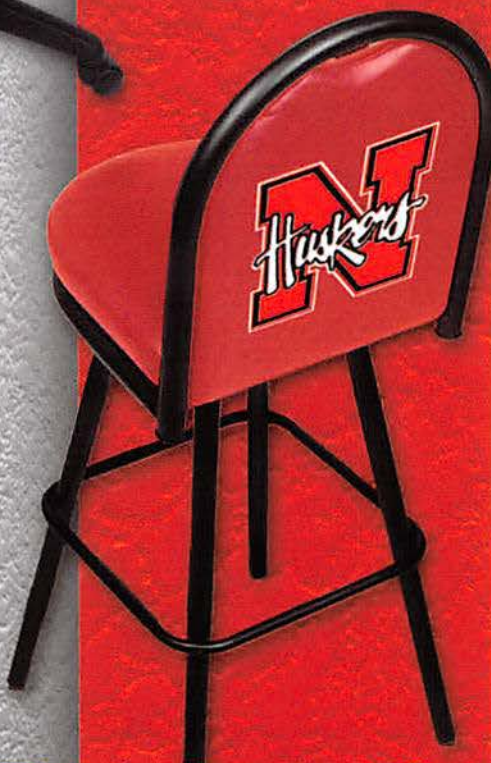

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In the S

Senior Dowling shares specialty position with true freshman McCormick

By Todd Henrichs

It's bad enough to shank a pass, but do it in a different uniform from everyone else on the volleyball court and you might as well have a spotlight shining your way.

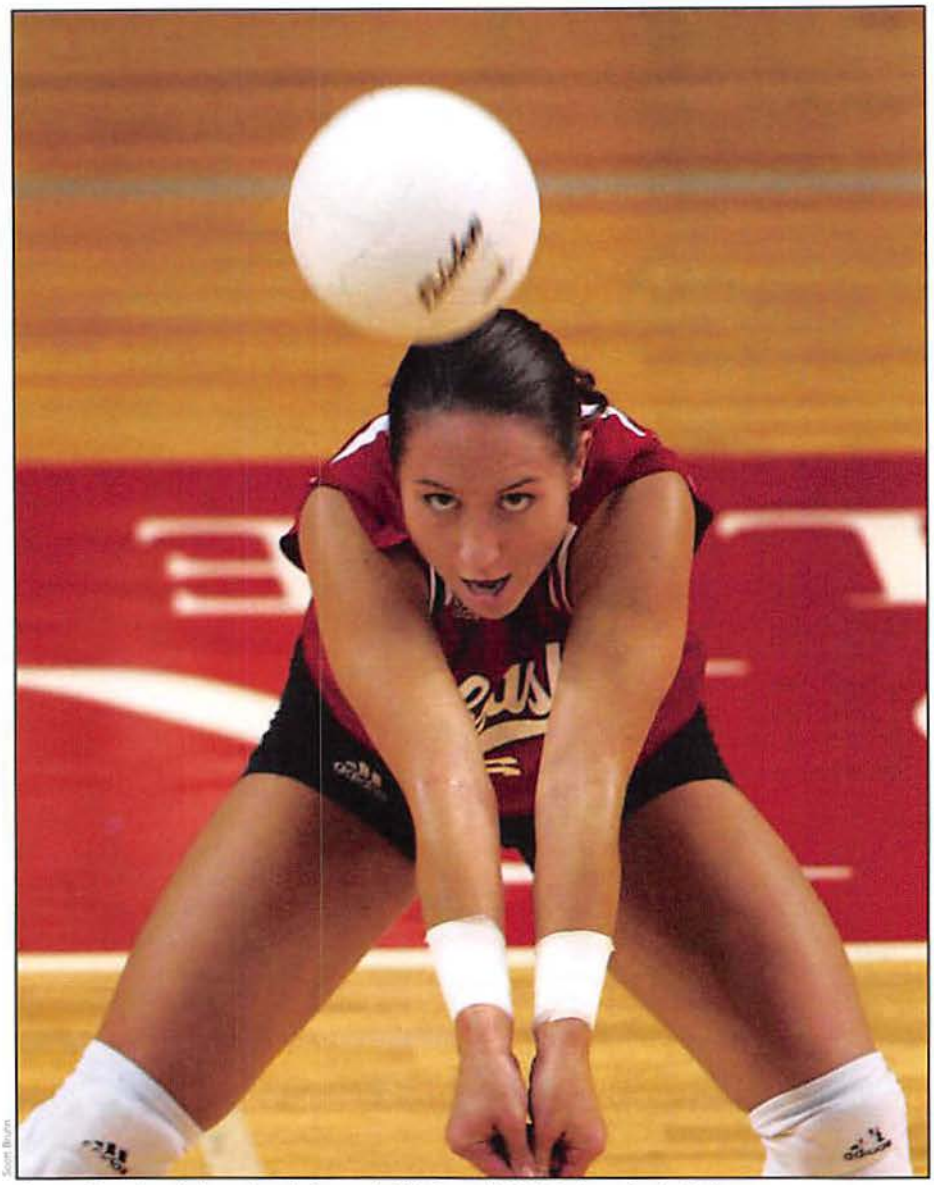
Jenae Dowling and Amanda McCormick have the most specialized, yet most-easily scrutinized jobs on the Nebraska volleyball team. The players with the different-colored uniforms, known as liberos, cannot serve, and can't set or attack except in rare situations.

What they can do, however, is in large part determine how well the Huskers perform in almost every phase of the game. A great dig makes the defensive numbers look better, and a great pass sets up everything offensively. Indeed everything the players in the wrong-colored jersey do is important in keeping a young team headed in the right direction.

"They are on the floor as much or more than a lot of our players in the system that we're using," Nebraska head coach John Cook said. "Just like everybody else, they've got to make plays."

The libero first debuted in men's volleyball as a way to prolong rallies in the international game. It has been a part of the collegiate women's game for only a couple of years.

Dowling and McCormick are in their first season at the position and both have seen time as the starter.



Scott Bruhn

Jenae Dowling (above) and Amanda McCormick (right) are in their first season at the libero position.

Dowling, Nebraska's senior co-captain, led the team in digs in eight of the first 17 matches. McCormick stepped in for an injured Dowling and had 31 digs in her first career start as a freshman. That was the third-highest total ever by a Nebraska player and the most by anyone in the Big 12 this season.

And Cook said McCormick wasn't even at her best throughout the Huskers' loss to Missouri.

"She played great for the first 2 1/2 to 3 games, but it takes time to build on that with a young player," Cook said. "She'll only get better."

In ending the favored Huskers' season a year ago, Hawaii proved to Nebraska that you have to play great defense to win with everything on

potlight

Scott Brunn

the line. Cook, an old football coach, compares what the Huskers can do to what the Blackshirts have done in sparking a resurgence in Nebraska's football fortunes this fall.

"Like coach (Bo) Pelini says, defense is about passion and effort," Cook said, "and that applies to volleyball.

"When you instill that in your team, that you can do that every time out, then you're going to have a great defensive team. There are very high expectations for how hard we play defense."

Solid play from the libero, when combined with Nebraska's system that has three quality blockers up at the net in every rotation, can make it tough on opposing offenses. Iowa State managed only 22 kills in a whole night's work against Nebraska in late October.

And even in the back-to-back matches that the Huskers lost at home to Kansas State and Missouri, the defense did its part. Kansas State hit at only a .140 efficiency in beating Nebraska. Missouri hit just .121.

Through 20 matches, Nebraska's opponents were faring only slightly better offensively than they did a year ago against a much more experienced Husker team.

"I thought we were a great defensive team last year, but I think that potentially this team can be right there if not better," Cook said. "We've done some really good things, especially in shutting down hitters."

McCormick is the first player recruited by Nebraska as a libero. She impressed Husker coaches with her toughness while playing for her high school team in Muncie, Ind. That state's player of the year as a senior, McCormick finished her prep career with 904 kills and 1,107 digs. Her club team won a national championship in 2002.

What Dowling lacks in all-around abilities, she makes up for with great athleticism. Dowling lettered in volleyball, swimming and track and field while in high school in Fort Wayne, Ind., and was named Ms. Northrup in an annual body-building contest.

As a volleyball player, Dowling was Nebraska's most improved player last spring and has played well this fall.

"I think she gained a whole new level of confidence in her abilities," Cook said, "and Amanda is a person who has been successful in just about everything she has done. Those are important things at that position."

That, and remembering which jersey to wear to the game. ■

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ACROSS

3 Joe Dailey's home state
5 NU's radio color commentator
8 Network for NU-Colorado game
9 NU's No. 22 (offense)
12 NU's final home opponent this season
13 NU's assistant head coach
16 1971 Outland Trophy winner
20 Network for NU-Kansas game
21 Kansas campus location
24 NU's No. 2 (defense)
25 NU true freshman offensive lineman
27 NU's leading rusher vs. Iowa State
29 NU's offensive coordinator
30 NU's No. 71

DOWN

1 NU fullback sidelined by injury
2 Kansas head coach
4 NU's No. 78
6 NU's JUCO transfer defensive back
7 NU's radio play-by-play man
10 Kansas nickname
11 NU's JUCO transfer offensive lineman
12 NU's kickoff specialist
14 NU's defensive coordinator
15 NU's nickname before Cornhuskers
17 Returned blocked punt for TD vs. Iowa State
18 NU got its second vs. Iowa State
19 David Dyches' home state
22 NU's No. 2 (offense)
23 NU's football strength coach
26 NU safety sidelined by injury
28 NU's No. 70

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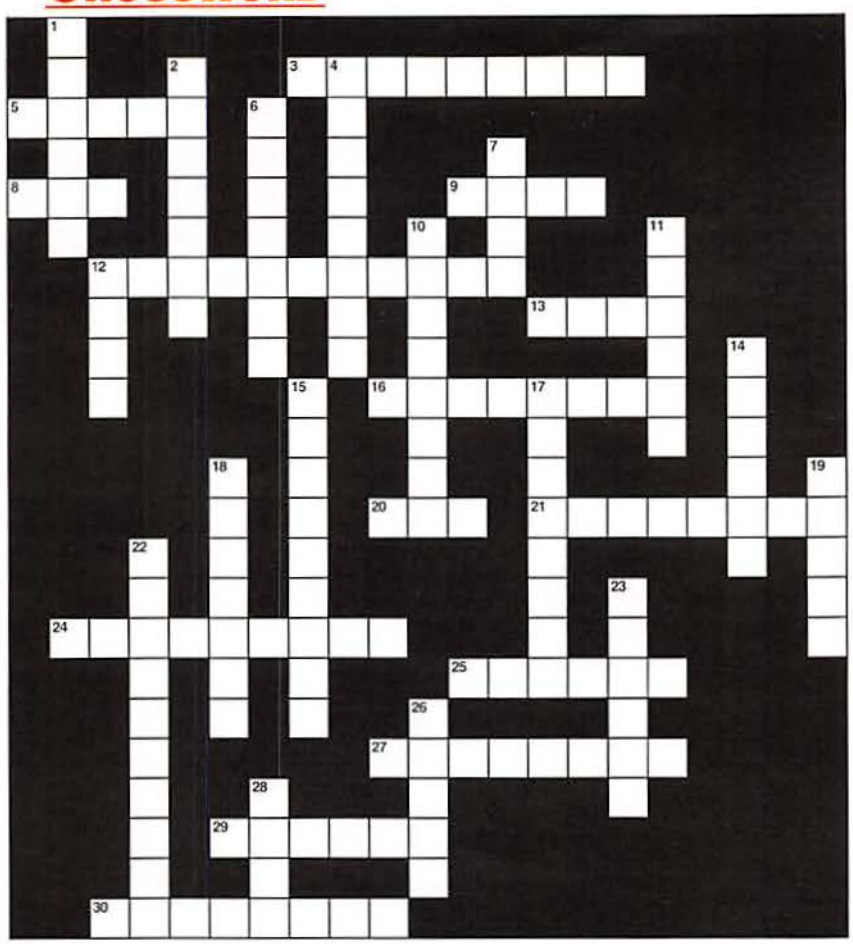

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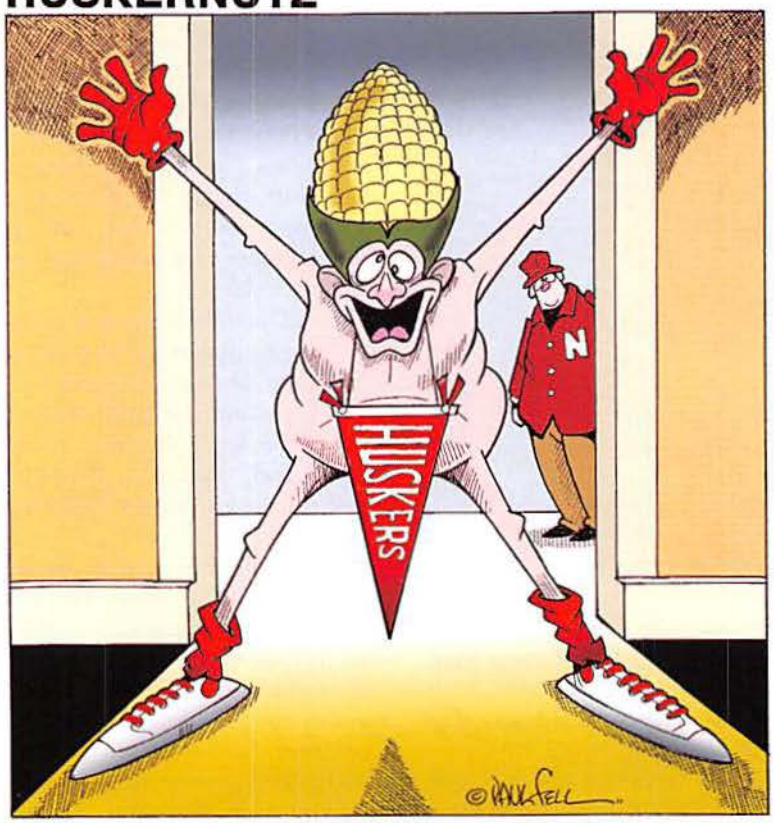

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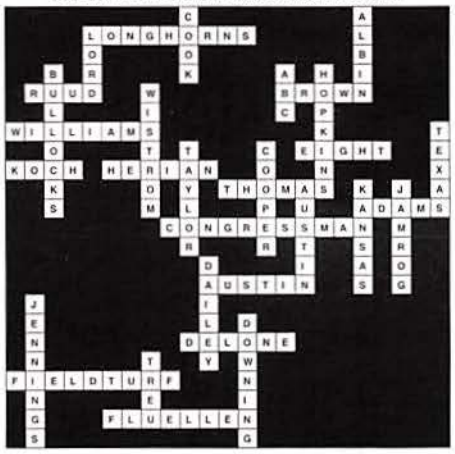

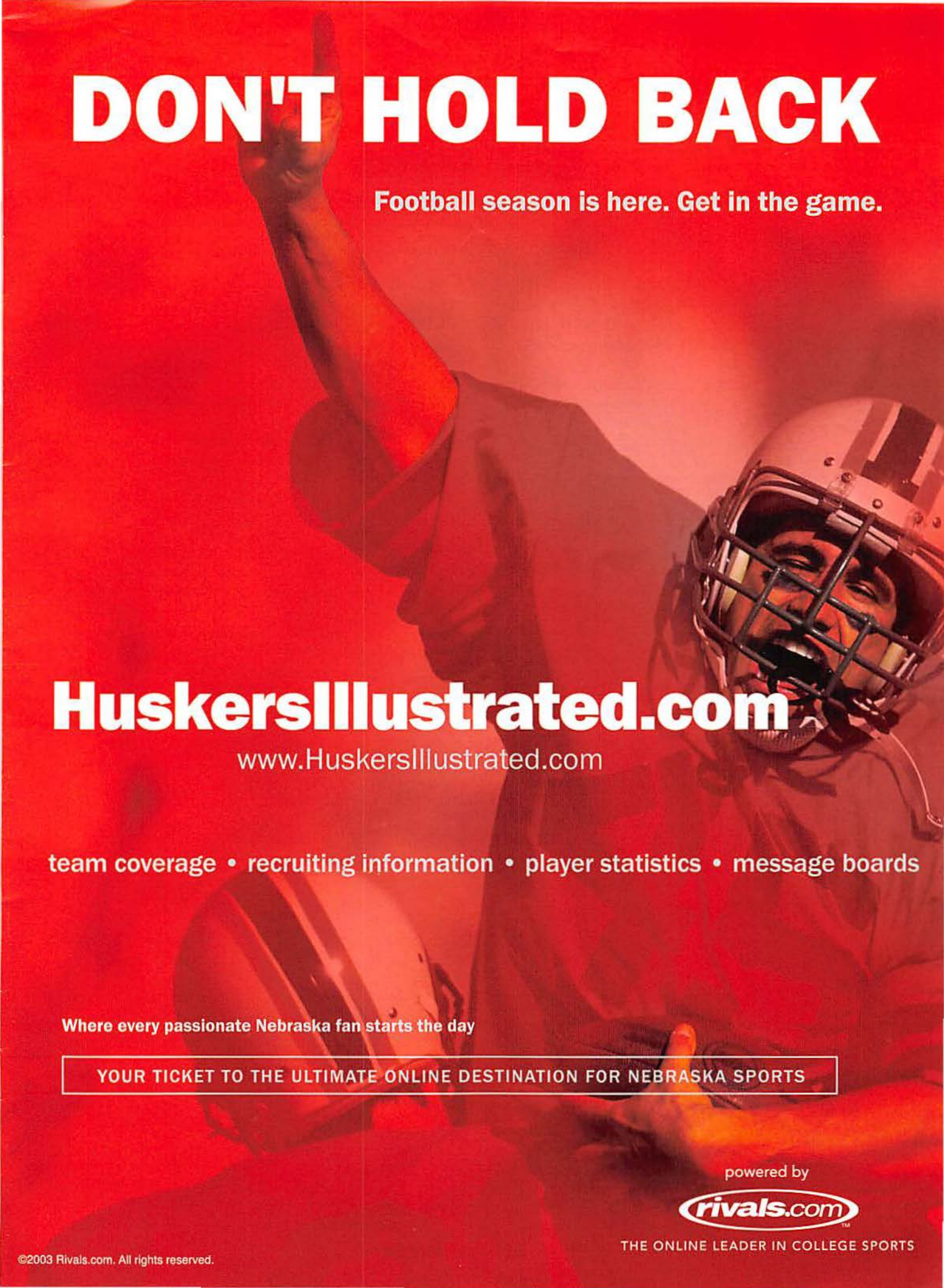
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Tough To Get Past

Disappointed Solich didn't see this one coming

Mike BABCOCK

NEBRASKA HAD TO INVOKE the 24-hour rule. Whether enjoying a victory or bemoaning a loss, the Cornhuskers are instructed to set aside a game after 24 hours.

In this case, it was the latter. "We're down," middle linebacker Barrett Ruud said following a 31-7 loss at Texas. "Obviously, when you get beat handily, you're down."

And Nebraska was beaten handily, no question about that.

Even Coach Frank Solich couldn't hide his disappointment. Ordinarily, he manages to mask his emotions, win or lose. But he was disconsolate. He didn't see this one coming. No one did.

NU's Jammal Lord was limited to 22 yards rushing.

Never mind that Texas was talented, athletic as always. Defensively, the Longhorns had appeared vulnerable to the run, particularly in a 38-28 loss against Arkansas.

"They're very, very athletic and they've got great team speed, by far the most athletic defense and the quickest defense we will have played up to this point," Barney Cotton said prior to the game.

Texas' defensive priority would be stopping the run, and quarterback Jammal Lord in particular. So "we've got to spread the ball around a little bit and not try to include just him in our offensive thinking," said Cotton. "I know that their No. 1 focus is going to be to stop the run.

"I think for us to be effective we need to be able to run the ball and move the chains."

As it turned out, Nebraska couldn't run the ball, and didn't move the chains. In contrast, Texas could, and did. The Longhorns did to Nebraska what Nebraska had hoped to do to them.

The reason? "They were dominating the trenches all game," Lord said.

Texas controlled the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball. Soft? Hardly.

The Longhorns did more damage against Nebraska's defense by running than by passing. Wide receiver Roy Williams attracted much of the attention going into the game. But statistically, he wasn't much of a factor, except in his ability to divert defensive resources his way.

During Nebraska's weekly news conference on the Tuesday before the game, defensive coordinator Bo Pelini was asked whether the focus would be on Williams or tailback Cedric Benson.

"It's all one priority, stop them, period," he replied. "Obviously, some calls are more geared toward one or the other, but you have to be able to deal with both at any given time.

"That's how you design a game plan. You have a lot of things you have to take care of."

Mix in talented quarterback Vince Young, a redshirted freshman, and the Blackshirts weren't able to take care of many of the things the Texas offense had to offer.

"I thought we'd hold up better against the run than we did," said Solich.

If the plan was sound, the execution was not. And Nebraska seemed to lack energy.

The backdrop for Nebraska's problems was Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium, the road. Over the past two seasons, the Cornhuskers have won only twice away from home.

On the road, "you have to create your own energy," Pelini said. "You can't feed off the energy of the fans, the stadium, the atmosphere. You have to create it yourself. It's 11 guys. It's the whole football team together. You have to rise up to each other. You have to get leaders that step up, make big plays and bring the other guys along. You're not feeding off the crowd. You're feeding off each other.

"You have to go in there with a mindset that you're going to create that energy and keep it for four quarters. That's more of a challenge on the road than it is at home."

Pelini's description of the problems a team faces on the road was accurate. But identifying problems is only the first step in dealing with them. And Nebraska didn't deal with them very well. That's a concern because two of the remaining three regular-season games are on the road.

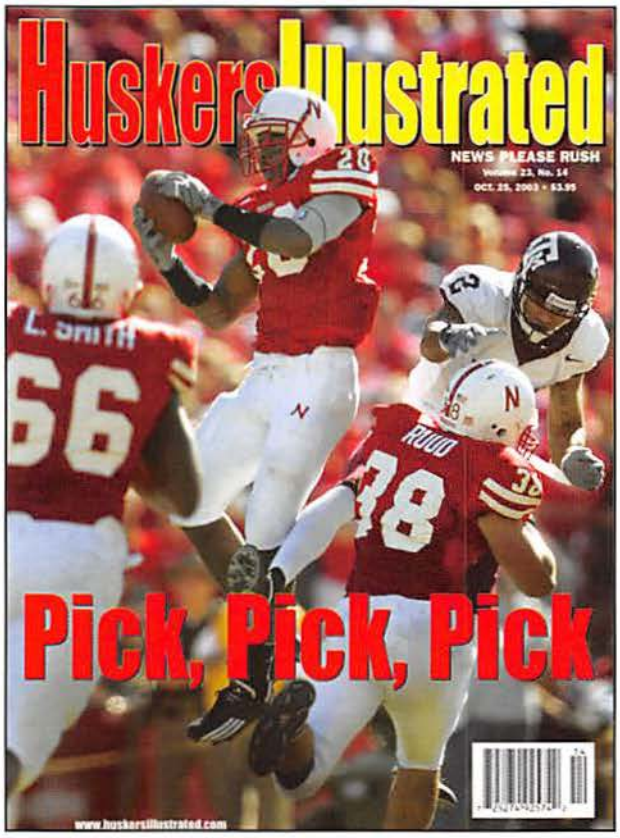
Despite the loss, the Cornhuskers can still reach the Big 12 championship game at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., on Dec. 6. If they can win out and get an assist in the form of another Missouri loss, they will advance. But first, they have to set aside the Texas loss.

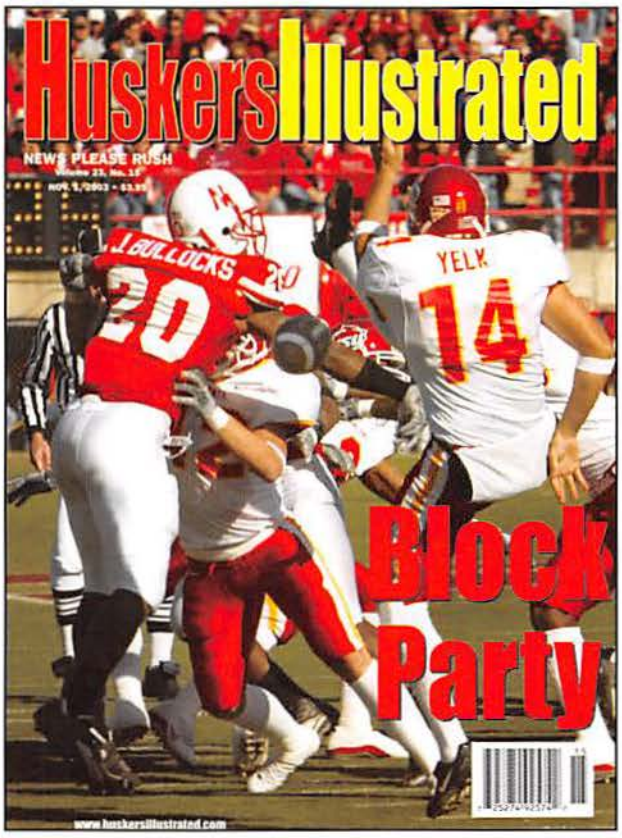
Next up is Kansas, at Lawrence. "We've got to put the intensity back in practice," Lord said. "It's really up to us to get the focus and intensity we need to beat the Jayhawks."

Texas is becoming for Solich what Oklahoma was for Tom Osborne early in his career as Nebraska's head coach. But the Texas game was history, and the Cornhuskers needed to invoke the 24-hour rule.

"We've got to move on to Kansas," said Lord. ■

All Huskers . . .





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